Monday, February 9, 2009 • 10 sections / Vol. 24 / No. 63 P10 website: www.inquirer.net

Heritage alert: Another ancient structure in Ilocos Norte set for demolition **LIFESTYLE** / E1

6 Gatchalian firms probed for trade fraud **BUSINESS** / B1

The Magic Circle Chapter 3 **LEARNING** / G4

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

LAST HAUL "Tiempo muerto" (dead season) they call it in Negros sugar farms when workers are left idle for several months after the season's final harvest. A "sacada" delivers the final load of sugarcane stalks to a waiting truck in Hacienda Victorias in Victorias City in Negros Occidental. LYN RILLON

Mike A need not show up

Miriam may seek deposition instead

By Christine O. Avendaño

SEN. MIRIAM DEFENSOR-Santiago yesterday said she was inclined to excuse the husband of President Macapagal-Arroyo from attending the Senate inquiry into the purported rigged bidding of World Bank-funded projects if he requested it for health reasons.

But Santiago, chair of the committee on economic affairs, said she was also inclined to seek a deposition from First Gentleman Jose Miguel "Mike" Arroyo as he could answer a World Bank report's allegation of corruption against him.

The report claims that contractors and high government officials were colluding to corner World Bank-funded projects in the country.

Senate President Juan Ponce Enrile has urged the President's husband to break his silence.

MORE A 11

Baby business: How far will parents go?

PARIS—PICTURE THIS: PROSpective parents excitedly click through an online catalogue, ticking off the optimal mix of traits for their yet-to-be-conceived child.

Will they opt for blue eyes or brown? Perhaps green, for a touch of originality? What skin

BABY/ A11

NONTOXIC LOVE Actress Chin Chin Gutierrez joins environmentalists in promoting an ecology-friendly, nontoxic Valentine's Day in a rally at the National Ecology Center in Quezon City. ALEX LINIS

BSP files fraud raps against Legacy execs

By Michelle V. Reyes

THE BANGKO SENTRAL NG Pilipinas (BSP) has filed 156 counts of falsification of public documents and two counts of false statements against officials, employees and agents of four shuttered rural banks under the Legacy Group.

The banks were Rural Bank of Pateros, Rural Bank of Darbel in South Cotabato, Rural Bank of San Jose in Batangas, and Bank of East Asia.

BSP Deputy Governor Nestor Espenilla Jr. yesterday said that the charges, which were filed with the Department of Justice on Friday, constituted the second wave of cases filed by the central bank against Legacy banks.

The first wave of cases was filed on Jan. 5.

Cebu de los Angeles, who admitted during congressional investigations that he owned the Legacy banks, has yet to be charged by the BSP.

But Espenilla said the BSP was not yet done with the building up of more cases, and De los Angeles could be included by the BSP in the succeeding waves of cases.

So far, 13 Legacy banks have been placed by the BSP under receivership for failure to service withdrawals and for engag-

BSP FILES/ A11

Kidnap victim walks, swims to freedom

By Julie S. Alipala
Inquirer Mindanao

ZAMBOANGA CITY—ELIZALDE Guerrero, a male waiboche kidnapped in Landran City in Basilan 11 days ago, escaped on Saturday night, walking and swimming to freedom as his captors slept, he told police.

Chief Supt. Felizardo Serapio Jr., head of the Western Mindanao Directorate for Integrated Police Operations, said Guerrero was now under the care of the Marine Battalion Landing Team 7 at Campo Uno village in Lantian.

"I waited for my two captors to fall asleep. When they were already in deep sleep, it was about 10 p.m., I inched casually away from the makeshift hut where they had put me in," the 47-year old Guerrero told the police investigators.

Not knowing where he was, Guerrero walked for six hours on a small road that led to a shoreline. Braving freezing waters, he said, "I swam and swam until the sky became clear and a lone fisherman on a pump boat saw me and helped me."

He requested the fisherman

KIDNAP/ A10

Microchip engineers packing up

SINGAPORE—CHARMAINE DEcena and her family have always dreamed of buying their own apartment in Singapore, but they are now staring at the possibility of returning to their hometown in northern Philippines.

The 33-year-old quality engineer for a semiconductor firm saw friends and colleagues fired in recent weeks as their company responded to the worst global economic crisis since the Great Depression of the 1930s.

MICROCHIP/ A12

No shame in side trip to US, says GMA ally

By Christine O. Avendaño and Christian V. Esguerra

HAVING A PHOTO OF MEEH Hillary Clinton isn't exactly as big a deal as meeting Barack Obama, but President Macapagal-Arroyo did not embarrass herself or the nation by making a side trip to Washington, her staunch ally in the Senate said yesterday.

In Malacañang, Press Secretary Cerge Remonde described as "successful" Ms Arroyo's one-day trip to Switzerland, the Middle East and the United States for bringing fresh job opportunities for displaced overseas Filipino workers.

But for making the side trip to the United States on her way

SHAME/ A-7

Chance-encounter diplomacy a fiasco

By Amando Doronila

FOR THE THIRD TIME IN SEVEN months, President Macapagal-Arroyo failed to meet the elusive Barack Obama in a diplomatic global chase marked by the

ANALYSIS

caste of chance encounters. Foreign policy pundits are a calculated enemas. They never seek an chance.

There's no justification to conclude that US President Obama has singled out Ms Arroyo among heads of state for humiliation with repeated rebuffs.

The kindest interpretation for these failures to meet Obama seems to be that

CHANCE/ A17

CMA BACK President Arroyo talks with Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita upon her arrival at the Naia from a side trip to the United States.

'Malunggay' ice cream, anyone?

By Frank Cimatu
Inquirer Northern Luzon

VIGAN CITY—CARE FOR SOME "malunggay" ice cream? Or would you prefer "ampalaya" or "ube"?

An ice cream manufacturer in Ilocos Sur is using vegetables to make frozen treats.

Instead of chocolate, vanilla or even mango, Ilocanos ice Cream, based in San Ildefonso town, offers malunggay (malunggay at mantaga), pole

MALUNGGAY/ A23

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Cloudy and Southern Luzon will have mostly cloudy skies with scattered rains. Visayas and Mindanao will have mostly cloudy skies with scattered thunderstorms and isolated thundershowers. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to cloudy with isolated light rains.

Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Cotabato	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Davao	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	San Fernando	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	Iloilo	Cloudy with Rains
Legaspi	Cloudy with Rains	Tacloban City	Cloudy with Rains
Virac	Cloudy with Rains	Dumaguete City	Cloudy with Rains

Second FRONTPAGE

E-mail: pi_news@inquirer.com.ph Website: www.inquirer.net/index

EZ2
3 36 13 1

SUERTRES
3 6 4 5 6 2
4 7 8

SUPERLOTTO 6/49
4 6 7 10 13 42
P134,316,900.00

Over 3,000 lose jobs in C. Luzon

More than 5,000 had hours cut in last 3 months, says DOLE

By Tonette Orejas
Inquirer Central Luzon

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—AT LEAST 3,368 workers in Central Luzon lost their jobs while 5,065 others worked fewer hours from December 2008 up to Feb. 6 after 39 export-oriented firms in the region struggled to cope with the global financial crisis.

In Northern Luzon,the declining price of nickle expected to aggravate the collapse of nine mining firms, dooming 600 workers out of work.

The latest report from the Department of Labor and Employment here showed the Central Luzon firms either closed shop, declared a temporary shutdown, or resorted to retrenchment and flexible work arrangements.

But DOLE data showed the unemployment rate in Central Luzon, which reached 5.34 percent as of January 2008, was still slightly lower than the 5.66 percent recorded in January 2007.

Of the 8,616 affected workers in Central Luzon, 7,206 came from 27 establishments based in four major economic zones in the region.

The biggest job losses, so far, occurred at the Latuka Industrial Park in Subic where two electronics firms retrenched 1,892 employees.

At the Subic Bay Freeport in Zambales, 12 shuttered firms laid off 319 employees and reduced the work hours of 2,830 others.

The same number of companies in the Clark Freeport in Pampanga laid off 840 workers and put 1,000 others on shorter shifts.

The country's first export zone, the Bataan Economic Zone in Mariveles, was so far the least affected, losing 21 workers as of the last week of January.

By province, Tarlac appeared badly hit while Aurora, whose economy remained agriculture-based, reported a zero job cutting.

Flexible solutions ensured in by some companies included letting workers go take forced leaves, scheduling them in batches to finish a set of orders, and compressing the six-day work week into three to five days, said Nathaniel Lacsamana, DOLE regional director.

In Isabela, a mining company set to hire at least 400 was keen on a nickel mine in Dingalan town. With a report from Nestlanne Flores Jr., Inquirer Northern Luzon

Operations at FedEx Subic hub to continue until China move completed

SUBIC BAY FREEPORT—IN ITS first official statement since its last plane flew out of the Subic Bay International Airport on Friday, federal Express (FedEx), the world's largest express transportation company, said it had no plans of closing down its operations here just yet.

"The hub in Subic Bay however, will remain in operation until the hub in Guangzhou is fully operational," it said in a statement yesterday.

"FedEx still maintains its presence in the Philippines even after we eventually decommission our hub at Subic Bay, with Manila and Cebu remaining as integral parts of the FedEx AsiaOne network," the statement said.

But it did not say when the Subic hub would be completely shut down.

A FedEx official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to release official statements, said: "We won't shut down Subic so fast. We can't do that for many different reasons. We just want to describe... that is, until our guys in Subic (Guangzhou) are ready to roll."

The last batch of FedEx cargo planes to leave Subic—eight Airbus A310 and four MD-11 aircraft—took off starting at 2:00 a.m. Friday.

Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority administrator Armand Arreza said the departures on Friday did not represent the official turnover of FedEx operations to China, but just the start of the transition period.

He said FedEx's decision to transfer its Asia-Pacific hub to Guangzhou was made as early as 2006, even before the global economic slowdown last year began to affect Asian economies, including the Philippines.

"The modern conditions in China doesn't (sic) exist in the entire Southeast Asia continent," Arreza said, noting that China accounted for 60 percent to 70 percent of Asia's cargo.

"Another incentive given by China is that FedEx can handle domestic cargo or cabotage. The Philippine Constitution reserves cabotage only to domestic companies," he said.

As the last FedEx plane took off on Friday, Joel Echanobeza, FedEx customer chief pilot, said company officials regretted having to pull out of Subic because the individual have very successful ties to establishments in town.

Echanobeza said the global trends had forced FedEx to relocate to China, describing the move as an "economic decision that put us in a better position to move forward in the situation."

"It's not a matter of Subic being not good enough for (FedEx)," he said. Robert Garsuga, Inquirer Central Luzon

ASIA INTERNATIONAL AUCTIONEERS, INC.
Your Best Source of Quality Machines in Asia
3RD MEGA 4-DAY PUBLIC AUCTION
TRUCKS & EQUIPMENT
FEBRUARY 18, 19, 20 & 21, 2009
FEBRUARY 14, 15, 16 & 17
OVER 2,000 ITEMS TO BE SOLD!
QUALITY TRUCKS & EQUIPMENT THAT WILL DO THE JOB FOR YOU!
Inquire & Register on-line via: www.asia-intl-auctioneers.com
LOWER MAU CAMP, ARGONAUT HI-WAY, SUBIC BAY FREEPORT ZONE, PHILIPPINES
Tel.: +63-47-252-3333 * Fax: +63-47-252-4848
E-mail: aiainc@subictel.com

United Auctioneers, Inc.
FEBRUARY 16, 17 & 18, 2009
(MONDAY, TUESDAY & WEDNESDAY)
ALL ITEMS WILL BE AUCTIONED ON AUCTION DAY!
1,500 LOTS ALL MUST GO
SUV's & U PASSENGER VAN
INSPECTION & REGISTRATION START ON FRIDAY
INSPECTION DATES JAN. 13, 14 & 15, 2009
CATERPILLAR 321BCR
BLDG. 1010 ARGONAUT HIGHWAY, SUBIC BAY FREEPORT ZONE, PHILIPPINES
TEL NOS. (047) 252-1109 * 252-1110 TO 18 * (02) 702-0828
FAX: (047) 252-1999 EMAIL: ui@uauctioneers.net VISIT: www.uauctioneers.net

Palace sets summit on global crisis

By Jaymee Ruing

MALACAÑANG WILL HOST TODAY A MULTISECTORAL summit on the impact of the global financial crisis on businesses and jobs.

Some 300 representatives from business, labor and church groups, the academe, government and nongovernment organizations are expected to attend the summit organized by the Department of Labor and Employment and the Department of Trade and Industry.

Labor Secretary Marianito Roque said the main objective of the summit, with the theme "Uniting Hands Against the Global Crisis," is to enable industries to survive the adverse effects of the global crisis and to preserve existing jobs. It is also hoped strategies would be developed to generate employment for workers who had already been displaced.

In a statement, Roque said the stakeholders will "sign a joint communique affirming their commitment to support programs intended for job preservation and generation, and for the provision of safety nets for workers and industries affected by the economic crunch."

The communique will be presented to President Macapagal-Arroyo, Roque said.

"The government is exhausting all means to preserve jobs as this would sustain demand, which is essential in enabling industries to cope with the crisis. [But] it is also necessary to ensure an environment that sustains and even allows business growth to enable the economy to preserve and also generate employment," he said.

The government recently said it would set aside a P3-billion livelihood support fund for overseas Filipino workers affected by the financial crisis. Another P30-billion economic stimulus or "resiliency" package has also been announced to revitalize the local economy and encourage jobs creation.

The Quezon City-based Universal Institute for Labor Education and Research, yesterday said an "unprecedented unemployment crisis" is looming as some 400,000 new graduates are poised to enter the labor force in April.

Thai foreign minister here

THE THAI FOREIGN MINISTER, KASIT Piromya, arrived in Manila at 1 p.m. yesterday for a two-day visit, including a meeting with President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Kasit was welcomed at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport by Department of Foreign Affairs and Thai Embassy officials.

Kasit was invited in Manila by Foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo, according to the DFA.

Kasit will call on Romulo and the President, with whom he is expected to discuss regional and bilateral concerns, as well as the 60th anniversary of Thai-Philippine diplomatic relations and the 14th Asean summit to be held in Thailand on Feb. 27-March 1, the DFA said in a statement.

Kasit and Romulo are also expected to exchange views on the financial crisis facing the region and the world, according to DFA spokesperson Gaynor Mangilaya.

Kasit was appointed foreign minister by King Bhumibol Adulyadej in December 2008. He is part of the cabinet of new Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva who took the reins of government after Thailand was rocked by protests that ended with the ouster of cabinets involved in election fraud.

Kasit is a seasoned diplomat, having served as ambassador to Germany, Japan and the United States. He graduated from Georgetown University in Washington, D.C. and the Institute of Social Studies in the Netherlands. Jaymee Ruing

Cloudy skies forecast today

THE COUNTRY WILL EXPERIENCE MOSTLY cloudy skies today due to a shallow low pressure area located 320 kilometers southwest of Puerto Princesa, according to the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pag-asa).

"Central and southern Luzon will have mostly cloudy skies with scattered rains. While the Visayas and Mindanao will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and isolated thunderstorms becoming cloudy over southern Palawan with scattered to widespread rains," said the Pag-asa weather bulletin issued at 5 p.m. yesterday.

It added the rest of the country would have partly cloudy skies to "at times cloudy with isolated light rains."

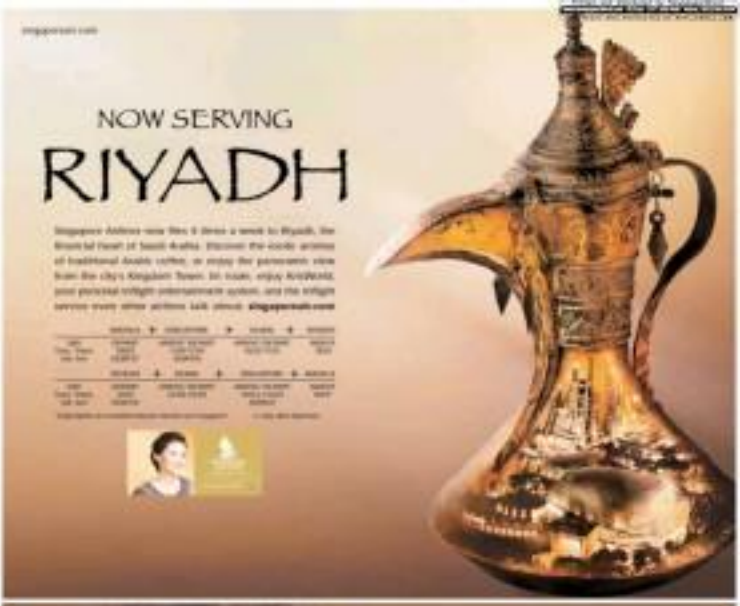
"Moderate to strong winds blowing from the northeast will prevail over Luzon and the Visayas and the coastal waters in these areas will be moderate to rough. Elsewhere, winds will be light to moderate coming from the east and northeast, with slight to moderate seas," the weather agency said.

Metro Manila and Baguio will be partly cloudy with isolated light rains at times while Metro Cebu and Metro Davao will be mostly cloudy with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms, it said. Philip C. Salvosa

singaporeair.com

NOW SERVING
RIYADH

Singapore Airlines now flies 6 times a week to Riyadh, the Oriental heart of Saudi Arabia. Discover the exotic aromas of traditional Arabic coffee, or enjoy the panoramic view from the city's Kingdom Tower. En route, enjoy KrisWorld, your personal inflight entertainment system, and the inflight services every airline achieves talk about. singaporeair.com



FREE
2 Skin-Lifting Treatments
upon enrollment from Feb. 9-14, 2009

Who says facelifts should be surgical?

Forget cosmetic surgery! Fatial Care's non-surgical **Skin-Lifting Treatments** smoothen out crow's feet and fine lines, keep skin taut and toned, and stimulate facial muscles to lift sagging skin. All without having to go under the knife!

Call **892-SKIN (7546)** to find out how you can avail your FREE treatments!

facial care
CENTRE

MAKATI • ORTIGAS • TOMAS MORATO • BINONDO • ALABANG • DAVAO • CONGRESSIONAL • PAMPANGA (NO. 2424) • CEBU (032-2521)

Political killings down 85% in 2008, task force claims

By Jocelyn R. Uy

THE NUMBER OF POLITICAL KILLINGS in the country dropped 85 percent last year, the police said yesterday.

The Philippine National Police's Task Force Usig reported that only six incidents of extrajudicial killings occurred in 2008, involving two activist farmers and four media practitioners.

In 2006, the task force recorded 41 cases of extrajudicial killings and enforced disappearances, and 47 incidents the following year. PNP spokesperson Chief Supt. Nicanor Bartolome said in a statement yesterday.

He said the 2008 figure included the murders of Cebu Provincial Board Member Eduardo Gullas Jr., a spokesperson for the Ilocos Magbabalido ay Pilipinas, and Nicole Paglicawan, organizer of Pambansang Kilusan ng Samahang Magsasaka.

The two were killed in unidentified gunmen on May 15 and Nov. 22, 2008, respectively.

The police also listed four media practitioners who were killed last year: Bert Sison of Tarlac, Quezon; Dennis Cuesta of General Santos City; Marlene Roman of Roxas City, Capiz; and Alvin Feliciano of Silay City, Misamis Oriental.

The human rights group Karapatan, however, said the real figure was seven times the number claimed by the police.

Karapatan said that from January to September last year alone, the group monitored 43 political killings—19 of them in Mindanao.

Rights groups, including the United Nations, support bids for human rights, but blamed military and counterinsurgency policy for the spate of summary executions of left-wing activists, labor leaders, human rights workers and journalists.

Task Force Usig was created after the deaths in political killings in the presidency of special courts to handle such cases. The Supreme Court has also promulgated the writs of amparo and habeas investigating agencies to show cause they were actually working on the cases, and habeas corpus, which in some cases would be ordered government agencies to open their files.

According to Bartolome, the formulation of the National Human Rights action Plan and Program, and the active campaign of Karapatan also helped.

Bartolome said more cases would be solved if witnesses and families of the victims would have "full trust and confidence" in the police.

"Likewise, the community must realize the importance of its role as the primary pillar of the criminal justice system," he said.

The Global Economic Crisis: The Best Reason to Train Your People

Everyone sees tough times ahead in 2009, but companies that will successfully weather this year's challenges are the ones that fight the crisis head on.

These companies see the global economic crisis as the urgent reason to equip their people with the skills to lead, to sell more and keep clients for the long term, manage and communicate more effectively, and craft strategic plans that translate into sustainable performance over an extended period of time.

That's why we're here. Guthrie Jensen's results-oriented training programs bring forth skills and solutions that will give your company the edge to excel even in these trying times.

Don't let the economic landscape drag you down. Take charge. Create the path that will give you the advantage. Get sharper skills for these tough times.

PEOPLE HANDLING SKILLS

March 3 – 5, 2009
EDSA Shangri-La Hotel

This program is for **supervisors** and **managers** who want to master the fundamentals of people-handling.

Want to know what excellent leadership is really about?

A promotion does not automatically make you a leader. It requires learning and using a whole **new set of behavioral and conceptual skills**. It now what it takes to lead your people towards **achieving your goals**. With **People Handling Skills**, you will:

- Deliver results that contribute to the company's plans
- Focus your people's efforts toward achieving the organization's goals
- Develop the best in your people
- Understand the transition to higher responsibilities
- Build a better work relationship with your peers, subordinates and superiors
- Accept the accountability that goes with leadership positions
- Resolve conflict peacefully, diplomatically, and constructively
- Align your people's efforts through effective coaching and counseling
- Learn to use discipline as a problem-solving tool

NEGOTIATING SUCCESSFULLY

March 3 – 5, 2009
EDSA Shangri-La Hotel

This program is for **everyone in your organization** who wants to develop their negotiating skills.

Are you tired of getting short-changed all the time?

You can't always get everything you want, but you can make sure you get what you need and more through **skillful negotiation**. **Close the deal** with the best possible outcome for your organization. With **Negotiating Successfully**, you will:

- Optimize your negotiating skills
- Arm yourself with complete information to avoid unpleasant surprises
- Go to the negotiation table prepared for the unexpected
- Grasp and take calculations without losing your cool
- Discover the tools that increase your power as a negotiator
- Manage the situation when negotiating as a team
- Use negotiations as a means by which to develop lasting relationships with your counterpart
- Defend hidden pressures and be able to protect yourself against them

EFFECTIVE BUSINESS WRITING

March 3 – 5, 2009
Mandarin Oriental Hotel

This program is for **all members of your organization** who want to improve their business writing skills for documenting, reporting, forecasting, and proposing innovative ideas, and outside your organization.

Are you experiencing writer's block?

To get your messages through, your correspondences need to be catchy enough to **grab your audience's attention**, yet **clear and concise** to avoid losing it later. Develop the habit of **planning before writing**. Know **exactly what you want to say** and put it down in an **organized manner**. With **Effective Business Writing**, you will learn to:

- Write concise letters, e-mail, memos, and reports
- Save time by carefully planning your communication
- Achieve clearer messages by keeping the main point in mind
- Write more efficiently by using drafts properly
- Spot and correct common errors in grammar and usage
- Create messages that are friendly, persuasive, and reader-oriented
- Creatively start and end your correspondence
- Catch and keep the reader's attention
- Edit and polish your writing for maximum impact

29 Years
GuthrieJensen
CONSULTANTS TO MANAGEMENT
SHARPER SKILLS FASTER RESULTS

For inquiries and reservations call:
Caroline, Diane, Li, or Tessa at **892-7559, 894-0445**, or **892-7041**
or visit **www.guthriejensen.com**
4th Floor ACE Building, 181-183 Rada cor. Dela Rosa Streets, Legaspi Village, Makati City

Court overturns Palace on sacking of PRC head

THE COURT OF APPEALS (CA) **reversed the Malacañang decision** dismissing former Philippine Racing Commission (PRC) chair Jaime Dilag on graft charges more than two years ago, **saying he was denied due process.**

Dilag, however, isn't out of the woods yet.

The seventh division of the **appellate court in its ruling** on Jan. 29 ordered the Ombudsman Anti-Graft Commission (OMGC) to again investigate the allegations that he collected cash payoffs from illegal horse racing clubs but failed to come close to the commission. He was also charged in have overspent PRC funds by up to P1.9 million between 2002 and 2004.

The court said Dilag was denied due process when the PAGC failed to furnish him copies of the sworn complaints **and affidavits of the witnesses** against him. Then, the court said, Dilag was not able to "intelligently prepare a defense."

"The most basic tenet of due **process is the right to be heard** and, as applied to administrative proceedings, an opportunity to explain one's side," the court said.

After his motion for reconsideration was denied a few months later, Dilag took recourse in the appeals court, saying no lawyer was present in the PAGC **when the charges against him** were heard, and that he received incomplete information on the charges. **See more Breakdown**

Correction

IN THE PHIL. 7 DOUR, a What West Before article on Page A6 misnamed the year when former Sen. Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino Jr. was assassinated. He was killed on Aug. 21, 1983—not 1984.

• • •

Readers may send their requests for corrections of factual errors (covering the last 7 days), Philippine Daily Inquirer, 5th Building, Chino Roces Avenue corner Makati-Cebu, Makati City, fax this: 897-8-7-10-10; e-mail address: dyuhl@inquirer.com.ph

Complaints on unfair lack of fairness or objectivity may be sent to the Ombudsman, e-mail address: promo@inquirer.com.ph or fax No. 897-47-99-94, attn: The Publisher. No phone number is NOT ACCEPTED.

DREAM HOLIDAYS 2009
AMAZING TOUR PACKAGES

"ALL TOURS ON FULL BOARD BUS ARRANGEMENT"

For more details and reservations, please call:
MULTI DESTINATIONS INC.

WHEELS FOR HEROES
The Pinoys Group Foundation Inc. donated recently 25 wheelchairs to Armed Forces of the Philippines personnel wounded in battle with insurgents throughout the country. The donation was covered through the Association of Generals and Flag Officers Ladlad Foundation Inc. Pinoys Foundation president Col. Jose Calaunan and Miss Reservist AGFO Ladlad Foundation president (3rd and 2nd from left, standing), and medical personnel from V. Luna Hospital pose with the recipients.

Ombudsman orders raps filed vs 13 local officials

By Philip C. Tubeza

OMBUDSMAN MERCEDITAS GUTIERREZ has ordered the filing of charges in the fraud against six ousted 13 current and former local government officials, many of them mayors, for various offenses ranging from negligence to graft.

Ordered charged were incumbent Mayor Ignacio Tiatco and treasurer Imelda Bonacorsi Singson, Cagayan, for violation of the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act after Tiatco allegedly refused to pay the salaries of five casual employees totaling P92,000 in 2007.

Current Santiago City Outlook Mayor Antonio Navarro will face similar charges for appointing his husband, Jose Navarro, as a director representing the media sector in the Santiago City Water District, a government-owned and -controlled corporation.

Former Tagaytay City Mayor Rosekelly Tang was ordered charged with violating the Revised Administrative Code in the acquisition of three lots for a cemetery project that was "grossly and manifestly disadvantageous to the City of Tagaytay."

They allegedly purchased the properties "knowing full well the price was way above the fair market price" and despite the lack of a project study and initial clearance from the departments of health and environment and natural resources.

In another case, Gutierrez ordered former Silvino Blas Garden, former Association of Barangay Captains president Adriano Padilla and Barangay Captain Napoleon Ita in Cruz, all of Lian, Batangas, charged with "bad faith or gross physical injuries."

The three local officials were alleged to have "conspired with each other to inflict injuries and caused to co-resident of the said locality."

Former Victorias City (Negros Occidental) Mayor Bernard co Beating, treasurer Alida Bonaventos, budget officer Glenda Antonio, accountant Shirly Ann Reynes and general services OIC Ferdinand Polanco were ordered charged with falsification of public documents.

They allegedly falsified an abstract of bids by "making it appear there were only two companies, namely, Sonicorp Medical Enterprises Inc., Intercontinental Medical Equipment Inc., Interstate Drugs Inc. and Steradent Pharmaceuticals Inc. participated in the bidding."

Investigation showed only Sonicorp offered such equipment.

Former Mayor Rogelio Esparcia Sr. of Balilihan, Cebu, was ordered charged with malversation of public property "for converting to his personal use 350 bags of cement valued at P350,223 to the prejudice of the government."

START BUILDING YOUR CAREER NOW!
• PC Assembly, Hardware & Software Troubleshooting & Repair with A+
• PC LAN/WAN Setup, Config, TCP/IP & Win2k Server Admin, Active Directory
• Windows 2003 Server Administration, Active Directory
• CISCO 1, 2, 3 & 4 & Exam Prep for CCNA
• LINUX Redhat System & Network Administration
• MS-EXCHANGE 2003 Server Administration
• Visual Basic 6, VB.Net, PHP & MySQL Advanced Programming
• MS WORD, Excel, PowerPoint and Internet
TESDA Accredited

Opposition to poll machine mounts

By Jerome Aning

A POLITICAL PARTY has joined the bishops opposed to the Commission on Elections decision to use ballot counting machines or the Optical Mark Recognition system (OMR) in the 2010 polls.

The Partido Demokratiko Sosyalista ng Pilipinas (PDSP), co-founded by National Security adviser Norberto Gonzales, said the OMR was not only more costly but was more vulnerable to fraud.

The PDSP backed the Open Election System (OES) advocated by election watchdog groups such as Transparent Elections.org and Movement for Good Governance.

In a statement sent to the Inquirer yesterday, Gonzales urged the Comelec to reconsider its decision to adopt the OMR.

OMR counting machines read ballots on which ovals beside the candidates' names are shaded by the voters.

Gonzales' co-founder is the PDSP lawyer Jo Claudia Underwood, who is also a former Senate S.J. Ball lawyer

Sale
up to
50%
off
on great selections
Feb. 11-16
THE
LANDMARK
MAKATI
TRINOMA

MANDALUYONG ...the Tiger City

Mandaluyong: The Economic Tiger of the Philippines

The people of Mandaluyong with a glorious and historic past to value, have more reasons to celebrate the achievements of today and look at the future with optimism.

From a sleepy town with a small tax component to neighboring areas, Mandaluyong has emerged as the country's "Tiger City" in 2003. This citation was proudly given by the Asian Institute of Management, the Department of Trade and Industry and the HDV Policy Center in recognition of the city's economic vibrancy.

With a steady increase of P46 million in 1986 before its conversion from a municipality into a city, its coffers has reached the P1.2 billion mark as of end 2008.

Latest records showed that during the same year in review when Mandaluyong was proclaimed as "Tiger City", it generated at least P11.372 billion worth of investments from local businesses and foreign finances.

Bulk of these investors include the world's most prestigious call centers, luxury hotels, huge malls and pharmaceutical companies.

The tremendous development is greatly attributed to the synergy and collaboration of its residents and the efficient and proactive stance of the local administration.

Under the dynamic leadership of Mayor Benhur Abalos, the city in itself has literally created a niche as one of the most promising business havens in the country where there is balanced growth – an ideal place to live, work and do business in.

His innovative poverty programs in terms of education, health, peace and order, infrastructure, job generation, housing and social welfare are working well for the city as a whole.

The brainchild program of Mayor Abalos called Project Teach (Therapy, Education, Rehabilitation for Children With Handicap) has become one of the recipients of the 2008 Para-lagang Pantas Award, jointly given by the World Bank, the Department of Interior and Local Government- Local Government Academy (DILG-LGA) and the Australian Agency for International Development-Philippines - Australia Community Assistance Program (AUSAID-ACAP).

Mandaluyong also received a Presidential Award for 2nd Most Child Friendly City in the National Capital Region cited by the Regional Committee for the Welfare of Children, Department of Social Welfare and Development.

Believing that creating a peaceful and safer environment for its people should be a top agenda of his government, Mayor Abalos has been investing on training of the police force, providing them with adequate and much needed facilities such as patrol cars, motorcycles and other high tech equipments.

In 2008 alone, Mandaluyong received twin recognitions from the World Bank and the Asian Institute of Management Policy Center as one of the "Most Business-Friendly" cities Dto L to terms of "Supporting Prosperity" and in terms of "Quality of Life", respectively.

The World Bank, through its subsidiary, the International Finance Corp. has cited Mandaluyong as one of the most business-friendly cities in the country. It was specifically cited as No.1 in terms of registering property, with a 21-day processing period as compared to the average 30 days in other areas.

Meanwhile, in its Philippine Cities Competitiveness Ranking Program (PCCRP), the ADB Policy Center stated that the study was aimed at identifying the best cities in the country in "live, work and do business in".

Out of the 90 cities involved in the study, the number was trimmed down to 25 best performing cities focusing on six criteria such as cost of doing business, dynamism of local economy, LGU responsiveness and quality of life. Mandaluyong placed No.2.

Mayor Abalos, who is also concurrently the President of the Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines (ULAP) and the League of Cities of the Philippines (LCP), is true to the fruition of remaining significant programs to uplift the image of the Philippines and keep the economy afloat. ULAP is a strong regional network with 1.7 million members. Mayor Abalos is the first city mayor to win unopposed to that position.

As it marks its 64th Liberation Day and 15th Cityhood Anniversary celebration today, Mandaluyong - The Tiger City is optimistic to chart notable records in the service of the people and anchored to the country's overall development goals.

visit us at www.mandaluyong.gov.ph

2008	P 1,734,912,532
2007	P 1,100,905,311
2006	P 535,000,500
2005	P 1,160,963,992
2004	P 1,221,124,128
1986	P 46 M

CONGRATULATIONS CITY OF MANDALUYONG!

EUROTEL
Check-in to experience... EUROPE

Chowking
EVERYDAY LOW PRICES!

BUSINESSBANK
MANDALUYONG BRANCH
Unit I, Facilities Center
Shaw Blvd. Mandaluyong City
Phone: (632) 531-3595; 531-3539
Fax: (632) 531-3537

WACK-WACK GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB
Shaw Boulevard,
Mandaluyong City
Tel. (632) 723-0861 to 72
Telefax: (632) 723-8558
(632) 725-8584
email: mauly@wackwack.com
website: www.wackwack.com

Han Pao Tea House
698 Bonanza St., SMH, Quezon City
Tel. (632) 712-4738
312 GF Sunshine Square, Shaw Blvd.,
Mandaluyong City
Tel. (632) 717-0466-68

You're the 1, Goldilocks

WORLD'S WALKER Jean Belliveau is a magnet for children from Virtuoso Foundation in Pitogo. On Saturday, he began his Philippine walk from Davao Norte.

Canadian walks world for kid peace

By Ania Aquino
Contributor

CANADIAN JEAN BELLIVEAU SUFFERED A midlife crisis eight years ago and decided to walk away from his job in event signs. He hasn't stopped walking since.

He has traversed North and South America, South Africa, Europe, South Korea, Japan and Taiwan on foot.

On Saturday, Belliveau, 53, began his Philippine trek, a walk from Pagadian, Zamboanga, to Cebu, all the way to Cebu. The modest party included Pagadian Mayor Modesto Salecand local tourism officials.

The trek would total 1,700 kilometers, he told the Inquirer in an interview last week, passing a few of the cities he would visit: Lanag, San Fernando in Champaga, Tubay, Bitoka, Lianga, Bislig, Lingasig, Cagwait, Tacloban and Bontoc.

To date, Belliveau has walked through 36 countries and gone through 40 pairs of shoes.

"I've crossed five deserts. In Japan, I was woken up by a bear. I drank *shiduc* (beer made from corn) in Wuu—I'm ready," he said.

Why he does it

Belliveau left Montreal, Canada, on Aug. 18, 2000, with the goal of walking around the planet to promote "peace and reconciliation in the profit of the children of the world," in accordance with the United Nation's International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence for the Children of the World (2001-2010).

He has been acknowledged by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization Edmond in Paris and greeted by Nobel prize figures like Nelson Mandela, Oscar Arias Sanchez and Adolfo Perez Esquivel.

When asked who he'd like to meet in the Philippines—political figure or otherwise—he had a ready answer: Ki Concepcion.

Concepcion is the UN World Food Programme national ambassador against hunger in the Philippines.

Beautiful puzzle

Belliveau walks pushing a three-wheeled cart carrying the bare necessities—a first-aid kit, clothing, water, a small tent and a sleeping bag.

His journey, he said, has been like "pieces of a puzzle," picking up the unique beauty of every country he visits.

In Algeria, he required surgery and was taken on a doctor who treated him for free. In New Delhi, he was given eyeglasses. In Oriix, a company donated $1,000 to his mission, and in Taiwan a travel agent paid his air fare.

"I was arrested by 1,200 females. I slept six times in jail. Sometimes I ask the police to give me a place to stay and they give me a jail cell," he said.

Trekking for the children

On his Philippine walk, Belliveau said he plans to complete 100 km in three days, and hopes to reach Cebu in two months.

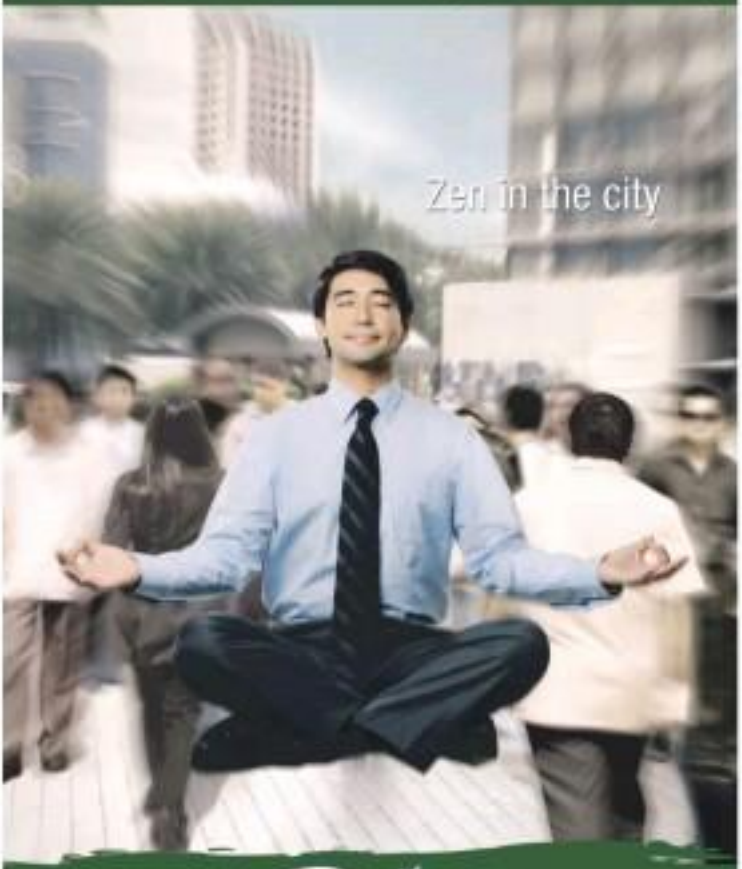
His walk is done in collaboration with Virtuoso Foundation, a Makati-based association helping over 240 street kids in Metro Manila, Batangas and Cavite.

By the time Belliveau reaches Manila, the public, especially those working for peace and children's organizations, will be encouraged to join him on the street, said Celine Santillan, coordinator for Belliveau's mission dubbed "Walk for Peace for Children."

After Asia, he will journey to Australia and New Zealand.

Belliveau expects to be back home in Canada by October 2011. With a report from Cristina Arcadian, Northern Luzon Bureau

Visit us for a taste of stress-free living.
Showroom located at the Ground Floor, GT Tower International, Ayala Ave. cor. H.V. dela Costa, Makati City.



Midori
RESIDENCES
Now obtain a peaceful retreat after a hard day's work! Now you can live the Grand Midori Makati lifestyle and achieve Zen with its peaceful location right in the heart of the city.

Call 729-8882 • 729-8888 • 886-0000

FEDERALAND-ORIX CORPORATION

DOE goes after firms that owe Napocor money

By Amy R. Remo

ENERGY SECRETARY Angelo T. Reyes has ordered the blacklisting of companies and contractors with unpaid accounts with the National Power Corp. (Napocor) and directed the concerned firms to resolve their issues "closing debts."

Reyes took the move after a Napocor representative revealed in a recent meeting that several firms with Napocor contracts had not been paying the penalties they incurred for late delivery.

Reyes did not disclose the names of the companies.

The energy secretary said late payments should not be tolerated, especially those in the procurement of fuel vital to power generation and the setting of electricity rates.

The disclosure of unpaid accounts also prompted Reyes to order an "immediate cleanup" and revamp of the Napocor's bids and awards committee, along with its attached units and staff.

Reyes stressed the cleanup "should include not only the system but the people in charge of it."

According to Department of Energy sources, Reyes wanted to avoid a situation in Napocor similar to what happened in the Department of Public Works and Highways, where contractors are being investigated by the Senate for alleged collusion in bids for rehabilitation projects.

The contractors have been suspended from bidding by World Bank-financed projects.

In his memorandum, Reyes directed Napocor president Froilan S. Tesalona to review the agency's procurement process to avoid irregularities in bidding and other practices in the procurement process.

Reyes also directed Tesalona to submit to the DOE a "report and recommendation within 30 days, including all necessary changes to systems, procedures and personnel to further improve the operations and financial viability of the NPC."

BI sends foreign executive packing

THE BUREAU OF Immigration (BI) yesterday ordered a New Zealander who manages a business in Cebu to leave the Philippines after he was accused of labor law violations and adultery.

Immigration Commissioner Marcelino Libanan said the bureau revoked the special visa issued to David Ross Moore for his alleged "unfaithful, anti-Filipino action, immoral and illegal activities."

"What we want now foreign investors to bring jobs to our country especially during the global recession, we cannot tolerate against those who violate Filipino laws, we violate labor laws," Libanan said in a statement.

The commissioner said Moore, factory manager of SWISH Manufacturing Inc., was accused by 33 employees of posting their duties for 12-hr minimum wage.

Moreover, the employees were not given social security and Philippine health insurance coverage, Libanan said.

Moore was also charged with working without the necessary licenses and permits from the government, and with allegedly having an illegal common-law relationship with a top DFSUC official.

Moore said the allegations were "malicious, fabrications and lies." Jerome Aning

SUMMER TOUR Packages
HOLYLAND w/ JORDAN & EGYPT
MARIAN EUROPE PILGRIMAGE
GREECE & TURKEY
RUSSIA & SCANDINAVIA
plus REGULAR TOURS
travelplan inc.

DK TOURS & TRAVEL CO.

HONGKONG
BANGKOK
SINGAPORE
MACAU
SAIGON
KUALA LUMPUR
BEIJING
SHANGHAI
ANKOR TRAVEL & TOURS INC.

TRAVELLERS CHOICE CORP.
TURKEY
SCANDINAVIAN W/RUSSIA
EUROPE
DELIGHTS OF EUROPE
MONTE RUSSIA
MONTE GREECE
EGYPT W/ DUBAI
SPAIN, PORTUGAL & MOROCCO
EASTERN EUROPE
DUBAI PO BANGKOK
SCANDINAVIAN W/RUSSIA

D'LJUNTS
BUSAN
DUBAI

MuLAN TRAVEL SERVICE CORP.
2009 LUXURY TOURS
2009 HOLY WEEK LUXURY TOURS
CORPORATE AND INCENTIVE TOURS

APPOINTED AGENT for TANGGULA Super Deluxe Train to TIBET
Yangtze River (Three Gorges) Cruise Tour
Newest Deluxe 5 Star Cruise
Century Diamond
PANDA TRAVEL SERVICE INC.

Good Location, Good View
BAGUIO
VACATION APTS.
Brand New

mobile news
News on your phone.

RAKSO TRAVEL
(02) 812-9667
RAKSO's 10th Anniversary EXCITING TREATS
ICEGAPADE KOREA
LAST CHANCE
TO ENJOY SNOW & GREAT SHOPPING BARGAINS THIS SEASON!
RAKSO 'My Country'
KOREA
ASIA
HOT DEAL!
PROMO FARES
OCEANIA
US/OTHERS
JOB OPENINGS
WWW.RAKSOTRAVEL.COM

UPang writers confab

THE UNIVERSITY OF Pangasinan in Dagupan City will host a writers conference on Feb. 11-12. UPang president Catalino P. Rivera announced.

The conference of a cluster of fictionist, essayists, poets, dramatists, etc. THE festival Artist for Literature Presenters Gerd Jose, a native of Pangasinan, will cap the conference.

Invited speakers are UP Ate Studies professor Dr. Maria Salvacion Perez, social anthropologist, creative writer and lecturer in Studies in Asian Church and Culture president Dr. Melba Padilla Maggay, poet and Studies specialist College faculty members Imelda Miralles, UP Retiring/Publishing Research professor Vim Nadera, and Noel Jose himself.

For inquiries e-mail Dr. Joseph Mejia at jmejia@upang.edu.ph or call Dr. Ofelia Reyes at cell no. 0928-5000433.

VIPER Hydraulic Parking Lifter
Auto Swing Motor Operator
Sectional Garage Door
FREE INSTALLATION!
CAR LOAN 1 HR. RELEASE 656-0140
Panasonic PABX P16,499 FREE Blocal Phones
Intel Communication Corp. 263-1083/384-8377
MERCURY
100 liters (2-3 persons) - P25,000
Free Installation!
ROOF MATE
CITYLAND We commit, we deliver.
GRAND EMERALD TOWER P 11,175 / mo.
CORINTHIAN EXECUTIVE REGENCY P 34,105 / mo.
687-3333
Lawn Tractors Lawn Mowers
LABEL CUTTER & ENGRAVER
LASER FORMAT FEEDER
ADDER / ENGRAVER
JOB Market
idec
Split Type Wall Mounted Aircon
1hp-P16,500
Free Installation!
LOWEST PRICE
STRONG HEAVY DUTY
HAND PALLET TRUCK
P11,999.00
The most read Golf magazine in the Philippines
GET READY FOR AN EXTRAORDINARY EXPERIENCE...
FILIPINO-CHINESE BAKERY ASSOCIATION, INC.
BAKERY FAIR 2009
AQUAPURE
BIG SALE!
COPYTRADE
The 5th International Exhibition on Bakery, Confectionery and Foodservice Equipment & Supplies
World Trade Center - Exhibition Halls 1 to 3
February 19 - 21, 2009 • 10:00 AM - 7:00 PM
EXHIBITORS WITH SEMINARS
Also please watch out for American Institute of Baking Seminar
www.fcbai.org
IN COOPERATION WITH
FOR INQUIRIES, PLEASE CALL 284-2918 or 334-2026
We can help you.
Tired of going from building to building to distribute your products?
TOYOTA MATERIAL HANDLING
HANDLING INNOVATION
Preserve your precious videos. Before it's too late.
Let us convert your tapes into discs!
into DVD or VCD
CopyTown
www.copytown.net
CASH IN AND MAX OUT!
ON USED BATTERIES

ISSN 0116-2042 INQUIRER Vol. XXXVI, 33

OPINION

Easy on Hanjin

THE RASH OF ACCIDENTAL DEATHS IN THE Hanjin Heavy Industries' shipyard inside the Subic Bay Freeport is unusual and a legitimate source of public concern. A total of 19 workers have died in 17 incidents since 2006; if the executive branch is uninterested or unwilling to investigate the matter, then it should at least allow the Senate's own investigation in aid of legislation all the room it needs.

EDITORIAL But a presidential palace without any qualms about aggressively asserting its prerogatives wants to crowd the Senate.

Last week, Press Secretary Cerge Remonde asked senators to go easy on Hanjin. "Ang sa akin lang [My own preference is], let us not overreact because of these things, [leading us to a point where] we will rub for the closure of these companies."

In the first place, journalists dutifully take note of what spokesmen like Remonde say not because of their own views, but because they speak for President Macapagal-Arroyo or her administration. So the news reports that issued from that news conference Remonde called accurately described his statements as preserving Malacañang's own position.

Secondly, it is important to note that Remonde's statements were based on a key but unstated assumption: that the Senate (despite now being under the leadership of senators aligned with the administration) can be quite unfair in the conduct of its investigations. "I think it is important that we should trust our foreign investors fairly so that we can attract more of them," Remonde said, not unreasonably.

Thirdly, and crucially, Remonde's appeal reminded the public that the Arroyo administration plays the deficiencies game dexterously. What does it mean to overreact? In Malacañang, the very fact that the Senate is investigating the spate of workplace accidents is already an overreaction. (In the same way, the administration's calibrated passenger-list response policy formulated in 2006 redefined the meaning of terror denouncements, as its prejudicial questions approach to the House of Representatives redefined the object of impeachment.)

"We are not saying that this should not be investigated, but maybe we should look at this in a context that includes foreign investors in one of the major efforts of our government because that is very important to our economy," Remonde told reporters. But what, for Malacañang, does a "context that attracts foreign investment" entail?

In 2008, Malacañang overweighed government sanctions against Hanjin (after three accidents died in one accident) by saying the Korean shipbuilder, one of the country's largest investors, was not even liable. "The palace doesn't suspect incriminating Hanjin's operations because of the accident," Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita said. "[I called [Subic Freeport] Chairman Armand Arreza and he said the accidents didn't involve Hanjin but its suppliers. Hanjin has no liability."

And yet, as it turned out, and as one of Arroyo's officials has acknowledged only this month, Hanjin uses a multilayered corporate setup that results "in the insulation of the mother company, HHIC-Phil Inc., from liability arising from employee injury or death, or from collection cases by unpaid suppliers."

This is something worth looking into, and if the executive branch is uninterested or unwilling to investigate, let the Senate step into the breach.

Remonde's appeal becomes even more inadequate, even more unresponsive to the public's real interest, when seen in the light of the Korean ambassador's haughty letter to the Senate last December. Part of that unfortunate letter reads as a distant threat: "The possibility that [Hanjin] may be an object of a Senate inquiry could generate schismatic and negative repercussions."

In the midst of a global financial crisis, the need for the country to attract more foreign investments takes on a new urgency. But at the same time, current economic priorities should not blind us to the unusual accidents that have claimed Filipino lives. Remonde could have used his news conference to remind the learned Korean ambassador, even so gently, that the Philippines and Korea have done ties going all the way back to the birth of the Korean republic, that the Philippines only wants international safety standards securely in place—and that foreign direct investment does not vest the investor with some sort of diplomatic immunity.

Publisher Isaac Tuason
Editor-in-Chief Letty Jacinto Magsanoc
Managing Editor Jose Ma. D. Nolasco
Associate Editor Alejandro J. Gonzalez
Associate Editor for Special Projects Rosario A. Garcia-Lucas
Opinion Editor Jose V. Abueva
News Editor Antonio T. Enriquez Jr. • Chief, Page One Operations Neal B. Pacheco
Chief, News Desk Ruben C. Almadrones
Assistant Editor Francisco S. Tatad Jr.
Senior Desk Editor Jaime V. Sarmiento Jr.
Assistant Desk Editor Dennis Chanco
Chief Photographer Edwin U. Espinosa Sr.
Art & Design Director Lisbeth R. Villaseñor

Board Chairman Maria R. Pinto
President Alexander Pinto Arnaldo
Senior Vice President for Advertising Benito B. Ramos
VP for Advertising Felipe B. Gozon
AVP for Circulation Susan Sison B. Tan

All rights reserved.
Design by Lisbeth R. Villaseñor
Logo by Carlo Ramos
Logo for Sunday Inquirer Magazine by Ramon Orlina
Logo for Inquirer Entertainment by Ramon Orlina
For reprint rights, please contact the Philippine Daily Inquirer

Pathetic—that's GMA chasing after Obama

As I See It

Neal H. Cruz

PATHETIC. THAT'S PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-Arroyo chasing US President Barack Obama like a lovesick woman chasing a man who doesn't want her. GMA obviously wants a photo-op with Obama to show off to her country men back home and boast that she has the support of the American president. She ran a race in the Middle East to make sure she was scheduled to go to the United States to attend a prayer breakfast where Obama was the guest speaker, thinking that Obama would speak to her. (Our Department of Foreign Affairs probably broke protocol to wangle an invitation for her. Invitations are sent many months in advance. Has Gen. Obasanjo got his in only last year.)

But can't she take a hint? Obama doesn't want to be seen with her. He already rebuffed her three times. The latest time was when he left the prayer meeting as quickly to avoid talking to GMA. Isn't that clear enough? Who would want to be seen with a lame duck despised by her own countrymen and accused of so much wrongdoing, including corruption, by the people?

Subhan. That's Executive Secretary Edwin de Ermita, in trying to avoid being revamped out of the Cabinet, telling the Malacañang press that Obama would learn a lot from GMA. It's why it many Filipinos overawed. No doubt, but all the wrong and shameful things.

Had GMA succeeded in having a photo-op with Obama, her mouthpieces in Malacañang would probably exaggerate the meeting by saying that GMA taught Obama how to govern and how to be a good president. (The Malacañang press release on that remarks de Jesus photograph with Secretary of State Hillary Clinton was probably exaggerated, too.) No wonder Obama doesn't want to be photographed with GMA.

Subhan. That's former Press Secretary Ignacio Bunoy praising before a Malacañang Cabinet meeting that God created the trees of his front lawn. Ladies and gentlemen, he doesn't want to be revamped out of the Cabinet. But he was savvy enough not, nevertheless, not foster that smear, because he was very obviously making sipsip. And GMA, duck-dimmed as she may be, thought that was a compliment. Subhan. It's time to be blunt sipsip if you were, but don't make it too obvious. Subtle is.

In fact, the whole Arroyo administration has been pathetic since it started. The Philippines got from bad to worse since she summoned the presidency under questionable circumstances. ERIS probably had the most number of press secretaries of all Filipino presidents, but all of them were not able to lie hard enough to make her look good.

The worst of the whole story is that Don't pretend to be what you are not. Accept what you are but try to be better.

* * *

Shareholders of the debtor Smart Philippines, Inc. (PPI) who are members of PLP Coalition are protesting the sale of PPI. Alliance Technique had dumped the ailing PPI on the lap of erstwhile Ice Spirit owner Hard Dozen to escape his liabilities. Dozen, in a shooting with shareholders, assured them that his company, Investment Providers (Investment Inc. (IIPC), would honor all the commitments to all the shareholders. They would not lose anything. But it seems all the owners of the payments made by shareholders, plus interest, to those who wanted them.

But first, what happened to Technique's original promise? It was supposed to pay the refund from of the (additional educational shareholders)

It's-word companies are his insurance companies. They accept early payments for insurance. The company guaranteed that **you get what you need when you need it.** They compute what they would need to pay in the future through actuarial studies.

All went well while there was a low lasting interest but investors in 2007 pressure. But when the government lifted the limits and nations lives rose sky-high, everything went haywire. The actuarial computations were no longer correct and the pre-need companies ran out of money to pay the claims. According to PPI, they have enough assets but part of them were locked up in dollar trust funds that would mature in 2018. They would be able to pay all the claims in 2018.

That's not good enough for the PEP Coalition. Members want their claims paid now at their place guaranteed. The coalition has signed the Technique group for non-compliance with its obligations to traditional education shareholders, or those to whom PPI pledged itself to pay the value of tuition fees of their beneficiaries at the time of enrollment, regardless of cost. It said it would question in court the sale of PPI to APEC.

Developments show, however, that some PEP Coalition members have already collected more than what they had paid. Let's take the case of one shareholder, a high-ranking officer of PEP but who shall remain anonymous, as an example.

This member of three children purchased nine different traditional plans from PPI before children, three each for elementary, high school and college. She paid premiums in the total amount of P297,800 for the nine plans. However, she already received installments totaling a whopping P1,203,127.61, including full tuition fees for her children's elementary, high school and tuition support for college. In addition, she is also entitled to $10,138.106 in 2018 pursuant to PPI's Modified Educational Plan.

In short, she has already received P1,203,127.61, but she is entitled to $10,138.106 (that's in US dollars), whose exchange rate with the Philippine peso is expected to (sic) be paying just P397,800. The payments she received are already 203.3% percent of her purchase price. She purchased the plans in 1990. This is four times higher than any bank interest and is even higher than any investment instrument in the country. What is more, she is entitled to receive another $10,138.106 dollars in 2018. Assuming that it is reinvested at (sic) 5% or $1, she $10,138.106 that she will receive amounts to P482,549.68.

Open wound

There's the Rub

Gonzalo de Quiroz

THE TRUE PEASANT THING I SAW ON TV wasn't Jun Lozada entering his kidnapping hut pose.

No, I refuse to put the word "alleged" before "kidnapping," as reporters are compelled to do, given that the courts have ruled it wasn't so. And given that everyone involved in it have crowed they have been vindicated by that ruling. The sense of law—what is hilarious doing to it—is lost on Lozada's kidnapping have not been vindicated in the real court, which is the court of public opinion, is the country the only court that's operative, or believable. But even the kidnapping victim has one thing they will be convicted in a real court of law.

But as I was saying, the truly poignant thing I saw on TV wasn't Jun Lozada refusing his kidnapping, though that was dark enough in itself if not poignant. Lozada let a reporter shoot him on the road he was supposed to be by his abductors and the apostle spat where he thought his time was up. I sympathize with him completely. I've heard (now that enough stories of people who had been abducted and whose life lay in the balance) that the abductors make the word hum that anyone on whether they should execute them or not. That is an expectancy to shatter you for the rest of your life. I don't know that Lozada doesn't still wake up nights in a cold sweat from a very bad dream.

But the truly poignant thing wasn't that, it was his wife, Violeta, telling an interviewer what she feels today about what her husband did last year. As she was talking, footage of the family in their current situation, or plight, flashed on the screen. Violeta was in La Salle, occupying a modest room, the children camping around on a shared bed. They seem happy at least to the naked eye, showing no signs of missing the comforts of a previous, more affluent existence, life adversity has thrown them together and formed a bond between them that promises to hold future than that of most families. Truly, you think, man—child or adult—does not live by bread alone.

She did resent what her husband did at first, Violeta confessed. She wondered what he was doing, going up against the most powerful people she had, whose capacity for reprisal knew no bounds. She wondered why if he loved his family, he would put their future and possibly even their lives, along with his, for after one long year she said, she has come to terms with it. Indeed, she has not only learned to accept it, she has risen it for the lofty—and there's one thing that it is lofty to call it—principle he died for. It is lofty to call it "principle" to do what was right, moved mind noble, and having enough the weight of letters...that would have been more crushing than what they have to bear now.

If that doesn't touch you, you're already dead.

I've heard people in the Lozada camp say grounds. One is that he is a self-confessed habitual maker. And two is that he is a self-up grandiose who insists on taking a bum rap not what he actually belongs in the back.

The first is easily answered. I do one self-confessed habitual maker in my life, and he self-denying rumor maker anyone, those than that. I'll always buy the self-confessed habitual makes who goes on in the presence for the third he has ceased than the self-denying rumor. maker who acts aforesaid as though he or she had been ordained. We do not look for the next, nor from the officials who resigned from government after helping to place the biggest rabbit on Juan de la Cruz's head, who is GMA, by stealing the vote, and who now imagine they are the most qualified persons in the planet to take over government after GMA is gone. The qualifications stemming from their claim of being victims rather than oppressors. GMA having deceived them, at least Lozada is honest about his (past) dishonesty.

What makes Lozada's act double heroic is what he is, or was. I would've have been the exact thing for a habit maker to graduate to a to-me-makes simply by lying soundly before the Senate, which GMA officials routinely do. Instead, Lozada chose the stony path, to tell the truth, for which pains he was rewarded from the start with personal and political humiliation, or ire, unknown. Let's look one more heroic. How many of us who would throw the first stone can do what he did?

The second, well, I leave others to debate the validity of the charges. But even if it was, all of them should be a corollary in the stage, in whose mouth is given, much is expected. Which is, to whom much is taken, much should be given. I can't blame him for doing what he did, keeping a high profile or even detesting himself for what he has become. He is not a saint, but, although or grudgingly accepted as he may be, at the only way he can keep from being prosecuted—however that is passed off as prosecution—to the full extent of the culture.

Whether you like Jun Lozada personally or not, one thing you may not overlook or refuse to admire. That is that he turned his back on reward and accepted punishment just to be able to tell the truth. So, more than that, just to be able to be true to himself. He tells, Violeta, to fight, and the end, there are punishments worse than being reduced to poverty and prey to reprisal. In the end there are rewards greater than blood money. This month marks the anniversary of Jun Lozada's kidnapping and struggle to say his piece unimpeded. We wish him luck. Forget it, forget it, only that one day, when we too are weighed, we will not be found wanting.

More on Davao ecology

RECENTLY I RECEIVED A LETTER-COMMENT on what I have written about the Davao aerial spraying controversy. Since it was not sent as a letter to the editor, I do not feel at liberty to discuss its authorship. Nevertheless, I feel free to comment on some of the points raised.

In one of my columns I wrote that the issue in the Davao controversy actually is "conflict between the right to property and the right to life." The letter writer characterized this as unfair and even lambasting me bad faith, stacking the cards before the members of the high court.

I doubt that the members of the high court will see the Davao situation as stacking the cards because I am sure they know that the members of the high court do not have a narrow view of the meaning of the right to life.

The right to life is not just about keeping body and soul together. It includes the right to a good and healthy life. This is the whole point of Article II, Section 16 where it says: "The State shall protect and advance the right of the people to a balanced and healthful ecology in accord with the rhythm and harmony of nature."

One need not worry that talking about a conflict between the right to property and the right to life will be unfamiliar to the Supreme Court. Magistrates are called magistrates because they are familiar with developments in jurisprudence, including environmental law. I would be unfair to them if I were to assume that they have not heard about developments in jurisprudence.

Some of the letter-writer's comments on cases mentioned particulars have come from magistrates. To cite only two examples, the International Court of Justice said in the Danube Dam Case: "The protection of the environment is a ... vital part of contemporary human rights doctrine, for it is the very prerequisite of the enjoyment of life itself." Speaking of environmental protection, JJ

SOUNDING BOARD
Fr. Joaquin G. Bernas, S.J.

Supreme Court Justice William Douglas wrote: "A quiet place where parks are made, people live and motor vehicles restricted are legitimate goals. Here in a land are addressed to lonely souls ... The police power is not confined to eliminating filth, stench, and unhealthy places. It is ample to lay out zones where family values, youth values, and the blessings of quiet seclusion, and clean air make the area a sanctuary for people."

As much about magistrates.

The letter-to-me also says: "Aerial spraying has been practiced in the plantation banana industry zone in Davao City for more than four decades now. Perhaps the most eloquent evidence by us is that there have been no outbreaks or preponderant incidences of illnesses caused by aerial spraying over the years."

But the point to Mayor the City of Davao says for "outbreaks and preponderant incidences" before it can be allowed to act? The whole point of the precautionary principle is that public power must act before harm happens. The Rio Declaration of 1992, one of the growing number of examples of "soft law" on environmental principles, already says: "In order to protect the environment, the precautionary approach shall be widely applied by States according to their capabilities. Where there are threats of serious or irreversible damage, lack of full scientific certainty shall not be used as a reason for postponing cost-effective measures to prevent environmental degradation."

Is there already a basis for precaution in the situation of the Davao banana industry? I can only say even that question is answered in the Court of Appeals and after its examination of the evidence presented. The Court said: "We are skeptical of the foregoing claims on the seemingly foolproof safety of pesticides or fungicides, both as chemical substances and as bodies of human exposure in the same way other pesticides similarly already utilized that the pesticides or fungicides they used would prejudice the health of their workers if reasonably sprayed. The admission would sensibly mean that exposure to such substances, even in the diluted form, poses danger to the human health."

Unfortunately four magistrates of the Court of Appeals do not seem to accept the validity of the precautionary principle. Hence they are willing to wait for "outbreaks and preponderant incidences" to happen.

The letter also faults me for saying that the plaintiffs were so far unacquainted only with their workers and not with the larger community. I based this observation on my examination of the evidence summarized in the Court of Appeals decision.

Apparently my reading of the evidence summarized by the Court of Appeals does not reflect the factual situation as to intention. As my letter writer says to me, "A closer reading of our cases submissions shows that to be strictly false. We are equally concerned not only with the health of our own workers but also the residents in communities near our plantations and the river's catchment. One's life is no more important than the other. Clearly, all our contentions are meant for the protection of public health in general and the preservation of the environment that we all share."

It is not my intention to question the love of neighbor practiced by planters. I only wish they would express their love differently.

Peace in Mindanao: No other option

IT'S EASY TO ARGUE THAT RENEWED HOSTILities between the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) and the Armed Forces of the Philippines since the breakdown of the formal peace process in August last year means there is little chance of a peace deal between the two sides. But this pessimistic view ignores the efforts on both sides since then to restart the process.

During a recent visit to the Philippines, twelve negotiators of the Good Friday Agreement in Northern Ireland, Jonathan Powell, former Prime Minister Tony Blair's chief of staff and Gerry Kelly of Sinn Fein, the Irish Republican political wing of Philippine government and the MILF leadership to overcome deep-rooted peace talks. After months of renewed fighting, both parties recognise that the conflict can only be solved through negotiations, not armed force.

Both sides, however, remain mistrust, disappointment and cynicism generated by last year's collapse will be a real challenge. However, after five months of futile fighting and fruitless declarations, both parties have now seen signals that are prepared to return to the negotiating table. The government has announced its offensive in Mindanao; and Malaysia remains as facilitator. Crucially, the government has not explicitly opposed these conditions and just lately the MILF signaled a degree of flexibility on these. In addition, never before has the international community been so keen for a peace deal on the negotiating table. Nonetheless, it won't be easy.

Third has broken down, the administration in Manila does have formal political capital to expend, presidential elections are looming, fighting resumes and the Supreme Court's decision may limit the maneuverability of the government peace panel.

There are two insurmountable challenges. As Kelly of Sinn Fein said following his meeting with both parties, "From what I am hearing and from what I have read in the MOA-AD, clearly both parties are very close to an agreement." And as Powell observed, "The negotiations on Northern Ireland did not conclude until one month before the end of Prime Minister Blair's term in office"—a prime minister whom we could also find in the political capital expended this end of his term.

As both sides were prepare to return to the negotiating table, it is critical they initiate a new process that avoids the pitfalls of the past yet builds on its achievements. Based on the experience of other successful peace processes, in order to reach the following lists, both parties will need to do the following.

First, rebuild trust. Despite confidence building measures such as issuing encouraging statements or initiating unilateral measures that cost little but achieve much.

Second, go above and beyond past achievements. Do not ignore or make on previous agreements and accords but build on them, and perhaps consider crafting a consolidated final agreement that addresses all the concerns and aspirations of both parties.

COMMENTARY
David Gorman

Fifth, address the current security issues not previously addressed. Many issues such as the final status of the region, disposition of forces and demilitarization of civilian should not be put off.

Sixth, persevere. Regardless of the difficulties, do not let the process die and always keep channels of communication open.

Seventh, consider a two-track approach. Cease-fire (track 1) ensure key stakeholders are well informed and their views heard, and provide another, which conducts negotiations out of the limelight where parties are more prone to compromise than when negotiating. These two tracks can be mutually reinforcing rather than mutually exclusive.

Eighth, demonstrate courage and commitment in overcoming the political constraints that will inevitably provide themselves. Both parties will need to support the other and not try to exploit internal rifts.

Ninth, demonstrate imagination in overcoming constitutional constraints. It is important to respect the procedures laid down in the Constitution but also recognize that chances are high that as with any separatist rebellion, an accord will probably require a new law amending the Constitution.

Tenth, ensure any new agreement may be implemented. Before the agreement is signed be sure to create a detailed plan with necessary backing from the local and international communities to ensure there is as smooth a transition as possible.

As a government delegation from Manila sets out for peace talks in Malaysia with their new project at for resuming peace talks, it is important that we recognize our responsibility in encouraging the two sides to support the peace process and overcome the pessimism. If the two parties recognize there is no other viable option besides talks, why shouldn't we?

David Gorman is the Center for Humanitarian Dialogue's representative in Manila.

Uncertainty and craving order

LET ME PUT FORWARD THE PARABLE FROM The Analects of Confucius:

"Yen Chung asked Confucius, saying: What are the essentials of good government? The Master said: Be entrusted with the affairs of the people. Do not delay them but manage them in person.

"The Master replied: The wise and good ruler is benevolent without expending treasure; he lays burdens on the people without causing them grievous pain; he desires to have peace, but not by struggling with death. Oppression requiring the immediate completion of tasks imposed without previous warning. Indifference giving cause to delay, and then requiring the punctual fulfillment. Holding backwards: stinginess in conferring the proper rewards on deserving men."

In any national debate there are two sides actively campaigning to convince the uncommitted. The uncommitted are the people who, at the moment of debate, are not on the same on the table and present the case for and against the issue. The public in the media the audience and the one called upon to decide which side wins.

The people are represented by the politically astute, the motives of opponents and proponents of those put forward in these campaigns are briefly debated, but. Often lost in the debate is the point of view of the public itself, as differentiated, if not opposed to, the views of the more already embodied on their pro or anti advocacy.

Either advocacy on any question—constitution, candidate, policy—has at its heart a particular vision of where the country is and where it should be in the area of leadership in general and the things that are meritorious or objectionable in our leaders on either side of the fence. We are called upon to clarify, I think, our individual concepts of those things.

THE LONG VIEW
Manuel L. Quezon III

Is it clear to us what we do we want, and the means, what are the things that require improvement and the things that are already positive

these elements are present, and indispensable—leaders, followers, and goals make up the three equally necessary supports for leadership. The point must be shared, no matter how many other members are present, if we are shared."

Teodoro M. Kalaw in his autobiography, Sidelights on Freedom," quoted one Filipino leader as saying to a colleague, "The problem with you is that you take the point of politics too seriously. You look too far behind you can't see far ahead of you. Our people do not understand that. They do not want it. All they want is to have the present problem solved, and solved with the least pain. That's all."

There is a practical politics to this, which is the satisfaction of pressing forward and increasing slavery and policy must be tempered by asking whether that is relevant to, or a real concern of, the consciousness the theories and policies are supposed to serve.

A decade ago, the same leader, in this same United Inc. 23, 1938 to the "Diary of Honest Harrison Blackman," said, "The people care more for good government than they do for self-government. They want to be ruled well and justly, but they resent the powers, or abuse them for improprieties. To keep order to his main purpose."

Which in a sense brings us back to (1), for there is the possibility that the electorate, the people, the public, the uncommitted, the undecided, which it is unsparingly disinclined because of certain critical, which insists then that success may be within the grasp of whichever side is able to appeal to either rationale and cravings of the electorate—and to the electorate.

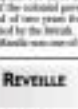
In my other writing, my Subi Tajiko first put forward a critique of the Communist Party's detachment from the countryside. Mostly studied back in the 1980s which was, that the Philippine was already well on its way there, so having an urban society and increasingly so broad. Of these, it not actually there, now, that the political temperament and culture, then, of the national capital will increasingly be reflected in the country at large. Certainly, there are those who do not live in the capital region who are just as much a part of the country, except where they are old enough to retain a distinct provincial outlook of their own.

February in Manila

IT WAS THE SPANISH CONQUISTADOR MIGUEL LOPEZ de Legazpi who established his capital on the island of Luzon in a place known as Maynilad. For more than 300 years the city would be the seat of the colonial government of Spain, except for a brief period of two years from 1762 to 1764 when the city was occupied by the British.

Author Harold Ickes of the Manila was one of the loveliest cities in Asia, going by such titles as "Pearl of the Orient," "Queen of the Orient," "The City of Our Affection," "City by the Bay" and "Intramuros," the walled city is the only surviving City." The magnificent Manila suffered was considered one of the most famous attractions of the city. Today it remains one of my favorite sights, thanks to Mayor Alfredo Lim.

REVEILLE



Ramon J. Farolan

Then came 46 years apart, one at the end of the 19th century and the other, a few months before the end of World War II, serve to highlight the role Manila plays in the life of our nation.

On the evening of Feb. 4, 1899, Private William Grayson and a companion, Orville Miller, both Nebraska infantrymen, were walking their beat on Nozaleda in Sta. Cruz, around 7:30. they saw four men armed were moving toward them and immediately called out, "Halt!" Upon hearing the command, the four cocked their weapons whereupon Private Grayson again called out, "Halt!" and fired at them.

It was the shot that started the Philippine-American War. American authorities would call it an "insurrection" to indicate that we were rebelling against their authority.

The Battle of Manila lasted for two weeks, from Feb. 4 to Feb. 23, and was marked by "troop surrenders, brutality directed at both, and atrocities ... Even more disturbing were reports of soldiers were firing indiscriminately and killing civilians and prisoners." (The Philippine War, 1899-1902, by Brian McAllister Linn)

The Philippine-American War officially ended on July 4, 1902. But US President Theodore Roosevelt, it represented "the most glorious war in the nation's history."

The cost of the conflict was some 7,000 dead and wounded US soldiers—and more than 20,000 Filipino casualties, including civilians and non-combatants. Some writers would call the war "America's first Vietnam."

Forty-six years later, Manila once more became the scene of heavy fighting and widespread destruction, making it one of the most devastated cities in the world, second only to Warsaw in Poland.

One of the most detailed accounts of this lurid holocaust is found in Alfonso J. Aluit's "By Sword and Fire: The Destruction of Manila in World War Two, 3 February - 3 March, 1945." National Artist Nick Joaquin called it "the most agonizing account I have read of month Manila's 1945 ordeal ... unquestionably the definitive book of the war."

The Battle of Manila began on Feb. 3, 1945 when the vanguard of the Flying Column of the First Cavalry Division led by brig. Gen. William Chase entered the Sta. Ana Transitment Camp to free Allied POWs. Three days later, on Feb. 6, Gen. Douglas MacArthur announced to the world that "Manila had fallen." President Franklin D. Roosevelt in a simultaneous announcement thought Joaquin Chiang who was at the Manila Legate in Turkey: "The American people rejoice with me in the liberation of your capital."

Little did they realize that the agony of Manila had just begun.

Shortly after, Japanese naval forces under Rear Adm. Sanji Iwabuchi entered the mansion of civilians, first at Santa Cruz, then in St. Paul College on Dasmariñas and later at Pedro Chantoco on Muertitos. And this would continue in various places throughout the remaining days of February—De La Salle College, the Quezon family compound, the Manila Jesuit house, the Polistic del Colegio de San Jose College, among others.

MSgt Oshiki Kawahara, who was their guide to Intramuros of the Philippine National Red Cross, with offices at Santa Potal (now United Nations Avenue). He referred to as what happened to him on Saturday, Feb. 10. He was in the office with a volunteer nurse, Marina De Paz, when Japanese marines arrived. The Red Cross premises, shooting and bayoneting everyone in sight. Marina was shot down as was a Filipino hospital. One of the victims was Carmen Nebb, popular movie star of the pre-war era, who was clubbed into death in the chest, abdomen, back and other parts of her body while protecting her 18-month-old baby in her arms. As soon as one of the Japanese soldiers opened his chest and threw out a shooting, stopping my baby shocked inside his head and luckily was partially covered by the fallen body of one of the doctors who got his in the first volley of fire. He would have escape from the building.

One of the more pitiful accounts in Aluit's book which reads like a page from a Holocaust story concerns the rounding up of Filipinos and Japanese in the vicinity of Manila. The two doors were gathered at Plaza Ferguson and the young women, some 400 out of 1,500, were brought to the Burview Hotel fronting Dewey (now Roxas) Boulevard, while the men, elderly females and children, were dispersed to other buildings in the area.

"The ordeal of young women brought to the Bayview Hotel was composed of many nationalities, some were assigned rooms in the hotel, but the big mass of them was confined in the main dining room on the second floor. Bayview became a horror house, classified by the Japanese military bright or to group. Japanese soldiers or marines would come into the rooms and pick out their victims. Then, in the middle of the night, lighted candles or kerosene lamps at the floor of the nearest, and by force and violence, take away the ones they would fancy into any of the rooms of the hotel."

Fighting would be house to house, building by building, with much of the destruction caused by US artillery fire in place of carpet bombing from the air, it was carpet shelling with each shell firing at a certain area, devastating every structure along the way. The main consideration was to save American lives. Small wonder that Carmen Guerrero Nakpil would write, "I quit on the very first American soldier that I saw that unspeakable day in February 1945. Some you, I have personally been but so Filipino civilians and you did your best to kill us."

On Saturday, March 3, after an assault on the Finance Building, Lt. Gen. Oscar Griswold reported to Gen. Rufus B. Siegel, commander of the 37th Army, that organized resistance had ended.

US casualties in the Battle of Manila came up to 1,010 killed in action. Admiral Iquino put civilian deaths at 100,000. "the highest number of human beings killed in any single on a city in modern times, outside of Leningrad and Nanking." Japanese losses outlived some 16,000 dead.

Perhaps, it would have been better if MacArthur had arrived—after the war.

The INQUIRER is a member of the
PHILIPPINE PRESS INSTITUTE
The National Association of Philippine Newspapers

LETTERS

On Remonde's Senate appeal: 'Mabuhay ang Hanjin'

MR. EAR. PRESS SECRETARY CERIOE: Remonde for urging the Senate to go easy on investigating the spate of workers' deaths at Hanjin Heavy Industries because of possible repercussions on foreign investments.

The bottom line is this: This country has no more Filipinos, and no less foreign investments. What's more, Filipino workers are being laid off, and foreign investments are projected to plummet this year.

What's a policy 19 deaths in three years in the Hanjin shipyard in Subic? Remonde's call is brilliant because attracting more Hanjin-type investors will cure unemployment while addressing the overpopulation problem. It kills two birds, and even more Filipinos, with one stone.

—J.S. ONG,
11 San Simon, Sto. Kapitbisig, Pasig City

Your HOME Today... an INVESTMENT Tomorrow
We Build Your Dreams
THRU PAG-IBIG, BANK, IN-HOUSE FINANCING

OPEN HOUSE Ongoing
BUY ANY OF OUR UNIT AND GET
HOME APPLIANCES
CANTA ESLA URBAN VILLAS & ESLA URBAN TOWNHOUSES
Contact Nos: 0917-6247257; 0923-8980014

BUY ANY OF OUR FARM LOT AND GET
OVERNIGHT STAY FOR (4)
ESL LEISURE FARM LOTS
Contact Nos: 0923-8998039; 0917-5348476

OPEN HOUSE Ongoing
BUY ANY OF OUR UNIT AND GET
HOME APPLIANCES
BAGUIO (GARDEN VILLA SUITE)
Contact Nos: 0906-5710395; 0928-9858097

In cooperation with Emilio E. Lim Appliances
Mechanics
ESLA Land Developers, Inc.

Making political capital out of E. Samar's woes

SOMEONE SHOULD CONFISCATE THE SLOT ORIAL "The right to complain" (Inquirer, 2/3/09) were distributed to Eastern Samar, in the toilets, markets and other public places. Before the first member hit the road, it must be noted that copies of the business mostly active in Eastern Samar secured more depending on the first commercial flight from Manila to Tacloban. It is therefore evident that some politicians in the province are capitalizing on the state of disrepair of our national highways to enhance their political agenda.

For the record, Rep. Teodoro Coquilla fully supports the enacting of the constituents for a better and safer highway in Eastern Samar. It is his main agenda. He won the mandate of the people because of this issue. Eastern Samar's national highways have been in bad shape and neglected for decades, in large part because of corruption. This is a problem that did not come about overnight. The "Imperial Manila" have been the "minister" of just political leaders.

Within one year of Representative Coquilla's term, funds for our national road rehabilitation, re-construction and blueprints were signed, and equipment was brought in, all ready to begin repair and rehabilitation immediately.

On Jan. 30, 2009, the Secretary of Public Works conveyed the 3rd Eastern Samar Peace and Development Forum. Public Works Undersecretary Rafael Yabut and the regional director of the Department of Public Works and Highways were assisted to explain and promote their program. They presented videos showing that the DPWH and Yabut Construction were fast tracking the project and working at full throttle from station to station.

What has been impeding their work in the provincial government, which does not allow them to secure their base-course materials from entering quarry sites. According to the provincial capitol, it is business-as-usual permits because it wants to avoid environmental calamity. But why is it issuing permits for mining operations that do not benefit its people? Its mining province has filled its coffers by selling lahar, while our natural rich Eastern Samar has to take out P175 million loans that are questionable and only invite and aggravate corruption.

Finally, we commend the 1,000 people who signed the petition in behalf of the silent one million Eastern Samarenos. We also agree with the bayanan that the people have an absolute right to complain and be heard. Corruption at all levels of private and public affairs must be arrested from all fronts. It is everyone's concern.

—ELBERTO CARINO,
congressional district coordinator,
Lone District of Eastern Samar,
Borongan, Eastern Samar

'Professor Reyes'—Her first name is Erlinda

THE JAN. 18 ISSUE OF THE INQUIRER CARried the story, "1,086 big men on campus get 92 years on probation." It was about a retired UP junior named Melissa Lenora Ming Medina, Ming Milford and made a reference to "a Professor Reyes of the Department of Speech and Drama" who showed kindness to him and suggested he perform his antics as janitor more considerately, and to come to the aid of students by guaranteeing their diskarte loans, as his "payback" for that kindness.

Fortunately, there is only one Professor Reyes in the Department of Speech Communication and Theater Arts, and I recognized at once the she is my mother. Her complete name is Erlinda Alcantara Reyes. She taught in the University of the Philippines for 33 years and was, to my knowledge, never absent and never went on sabbatical because when she had a chance to apply for one, she was the chair of the department and did not want to relinquish her duties.

Many of her classes were held in Room 120 of Palma Hall and every semester she would make her students organize fundraising activities. She did not make them contribute their own money for these, but urged them to use their public speaking skills to convince other people to part with their money and donate for worthy causes like the financial needs of political detainees, desks, janitors and others who had fires in life. The last fundraising I recall the Department of Filipino since recalled to me how my mother and her class visited political detainees and donated the money they had raised.

After the article came out in the Inquirer, we received a lot of text messages from friends who recognized the name and said they were so moved by the story.

My family and I would like to express our gratitude to Mang Milton and the bayanan for celebrating my mother's dedication as a teacher and her kindness to a classmate being.

What always amuses me is when my non-Filipino students try to get the first names, even middle names, right, especially when the names are common like CHA, Bernie or Bryan. Wouldn't it have been so simple for the reporter to roll up the UP trunk line, ask for the Department of Speech Communication and Theater Arts and get the first name of Professor Reyes?

What's in a name? It makes all the difference.

—GEORGINA REYES INCANTO,
former dean and professor of journalism,
University of the Philippines

Summer out there!
Maagang lalabas ang tag-init
sa tindi ng Cebu Pacific's low fares.
GO LITE FARE
DOMESTIC SEAT SALE
Seat sale: Feb. 4 to 10, 2009
Travel period: Feb. 4 to Mar. 31, 2009
ZERO FUEL SURCHARGE!
₱188 Manila to Busuanga, Cebu, Iloilo, Legaspi, Naga or San Jose (Mindoro)
₱288 Manila to Laoag, Tuguegarao or Cauayan (Isabela) NEW!
Cebu to Bacolod, Butuan, Cagayan de Oro, Iloilo, Surigao, Tacloban or Dumaguete NEW!
₱488 Manila to Bacolod, Boracay (Caticlan), Kalibo, Puerto Princesa, Tacloban, Tagbilaran, Catbalogan, Calbayog, Catarman or Virac NEW!
Cebu to Boracay (Caticlan)
₱688 Manila to Dumaguete or Roxas
Cebu to Clark, Davao, Dipolog, General Santos, Ozamiz, Puerto Princesa, Zamboanga, Calbalato, Legaspi or Siargao NEW!
Davao to Iloilo or Zamboanga
₱1,188 Manila to Butuan, Cagayan de Oro, Calbalato, Davao, Dipolog, General Santos or Zamboanga
Go Lite Fares are available upon booking for guests travelling without check-in baggage. Add ₱200 to fare if traveling with check-in baggage.
Call (02) 79-20-888 in Manila, (032) 230-88-88 in Cebu or visit the travel agent near you.
CEBU PACIFIC AIR.COM

No shame in side trip to US, says GMA ally

From page A1

honor, 'the just got herself (sent) for nothing,'" Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago said, dismissing claims that the President was running after Obama and that the new US leader was playing coy.

Santiago said it was the President's call to travel to Washington for Thursday's National Prayer Breakfast, where Obama was the guest speaker.

"It's really up to her if she has the energy to do so, but she did not embarrass herself," Santiago told dzBB radio.

Anyway, the protocol out that no many countries noticed the Ms Arroyo's presence at the affair.

Santiago agreed though with some of her colleagues that Ms Arroyo should have dropped the event.

Even if it was the US Congress that hosted her, Santiago said that Ms Arroyo was the Philippine president and should have been the host recognized as a head of state," and not just as another face in the crowd.

She said it was not enough that Ms Arroyo was seated beside US Speaker Nancy Pelosi or to just simply meet with Secretary of State Clinton, reminding that Ms Arroyo was not with her bailiwick.

"Our President should be treated like a president," Santiago said.

Santiago said that the Philippine ambassador to the United States should not have allowed such treatment of the President. Santiago said it was possible that Ms Arroyo was "misled," ordering anyone who was not the "inquisitive type."

Neither Ms Arroyo at least was able to meet and have a private talks with Clinton, the State secretary explained in laughter: "So what"

Ms Arroyo, who arrived in Manila at around 3 p.m. yesterday aboard a commercial Philippine Airlines flight, had made two failed attempts last year to meet with Obama. She finally saw him in the Washington event, but he came late and went away without acknowledging her presence.

Before returning to Manila, Ms Arroyo also met with the chairs and chief executive officers of American multinational corporations operating in the Philippines.

"The feedback is that they [continue to have trust and confidence in our economy and will continue to invest here in the Philippines ... and consider the Philippines as a primary investment destination," Bernardo said.

The failed meeting with Obama aside, Ms Arroyo in her latest economic trip found new job markets in Saudi Arabia, Qatar and Bahrain, Bernardo said.

"This is a very good news especially amid reports that there were OFWs displaced in other countries," he said in an interview with Radyo ng Bayan.

"They may come home and be processed and redeployed in these new labor markets that the President has developed in the Middle East."

One such job is that of mixologists in Bahrain's "burgeoning shopping malls," according to a Malacañang statement.

Bahrain Prime Minister Shaikh Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa was also set to head a "high level" trade delegation to the Philippines soon, Bernardo said.

"The President has secured trade and investment commitments from these Middle Eastern countries," he said, referring also to Saudi Arabia and Qatar.

Thailand's new Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva was scheduled to visit Manila as well to "reaffirm trade and diplomatic relations," Bernardo said.

Chance-encounter diplomacy

From page A1

sions last June and November, when Ms Arroyo made a stone stab to the United States in the midst of the 2008 presidential election, Obama had no-time-to waste with exciting heads of state ostensibly seeking photo opportunities.

In short their measures, Ms Arroyo's attempts to meet or at least talk with Obama by telephone were ill-timed. Of all the US leaders that Filipino presidents had to deal with since the independence movement during the administrations of Franklin D. Roosevelt, Obama has proved to be the most elusive and hardest to meet.

Obama appears to be most unfamiliar with Philippine-US affairs.

After his election last November, Obama failed to return the call of President Arroyo congratulating him on his election, although he received the calls of nine other heads of state.

The third time, Ms Arroyo took a chance when she made an unscheduled detour to Washington to attend the National Prayer Breakfast on Capitol Hill after attending the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland.

The prayer breakfast, a traditional annual gathering of members of the US Congress, had invited Obama as guest speaker. Ms Arroyo received an invitation to the gathering en route from Davos to encounter she was visiting in the Middle East.

Members of the presidential entourage had thought this was a good chance for her to meet Obama, but Obama arrived late at the event and rushed off after delivering his speech.

According to members of Ms Arroyo's party, Obama failed to greet any head of state, and said meeting Obama "wasn't really part of her agenda."

Childish excuse

A presidential spokesperson said Ms Arroyo "wanted to meet Obama," but thought it inappropriate to do this in a "spiritual event."

This is childish excuse.

Ms Arroyo was compensated for her frustration with a 30-minute talk with Secretary of State Hillary Clinton. According to the presidential spokesperson, Ms Arroyo and Clinton talked about the Philippines' strategies for ending the Moro insurgency in Mindanao and for dealing with the global economic recession.

Clinton was reported to have told Ms Arroyo that the Philippines is "one of our closest friends" in the region, not just in asia, but so to many issues around the world." She told Ms Arroyo that "she wants to strengthen and deepen our relationship further."

Given the dual mess communication between Obama and Ms Arroyo, the dialogue with Clinton could have been music in the ears of the Philippine leader.

But it was not encouraging to hear that Clinton had scheduled her first overseas trip as secretary of state for Feb. 15 with visits to Japan, South Korea, China and Indonesia, excluding the Philippines.

This itinerary revealed to Ms Arroyo Obama's priorities relative to Asia as the state department is undertaking a total overhaul of US foreign policy that breaks away from the war on terrorism framework of the Bush administration.

Wasted time

Ms Arroyo brought to Obama's Washington the outdated Bush war policy framework that defined Philippine relations with the United States when she briefed Clinton on Manila's initiatives to refocus the campaign against the Moro insurgency in Mindanao away from armed conflict to dialogue with ethnic communities.

The Mindanao issue is now old hat in the revision of US foreign policy. Ms Arroyo never seemed so outdated and irrelevant when she visited Washington in a time of foreign policy flux and review.

While Ms Arroyo was running her time in Washington trying to pick up signals of change of directions of US foreign policy, US Vice President Joe Biden was scrambling the break with the unilateralist tilt of the Bush years in a major foreign policy speech in Germany.

Speaking at a security conference in Munich, Biden said the Obama administration was determined to effect a "new tone" in its relations around the world. He said the United States would work "persistently, not preemptively," whenever possible, and "would as the same time "vigorously defend" the nation's security.

"We reject as false the choice between our safety and ideals," Biden said. "America will vigorously defend our security and our interests, and in doing so, we will all be more secure."

He said that the United States wanted to reset the "reset button" with Russia after a "dangerous drift" in recent years, and was open to talks with Iran. But while the United States was ready to do more, it would expect more from its partners. He warned no strategy in Afghanistan could succeed without Pakistan.

Losing face

Setting the tone for healing the rift with Europe, Biden said: "I come to Europe on behalf of a new administration determined to set a new tone in Washington, and in America's relations around the world.

"We will engage. He still listen. We will consult. America needs the world, just as I believe the world needs America. Our administration has set goals ... to advance democracy not through imposition by force from the outside, but by working with moderates in government and civil society to build the institutions that will preserve freedom."

Analysts said Biden's trip to Munich could go a long way toward repairing ties with Europe that were severely strained by Bush's decision to invade Iraq in 2003.

Jan Brunson, a fellow at the Center of Strategic Studies in Washington, said Biden's speech "is an excellent sign of the time between this administration and the Europeans."

"Clearly, they (Europeans) want him to say the transatlantic relationship is central," he said.

So far, the signals for a "new tone" with Asia are mixed. This makes it all to painful for Ms Arroyo to pursue her quest for a one-on-one with Obama. Some Asians consult outside when they has fans.

MUST FOR LAWYERS

[illegible] is hereby granted by the Office for Transportation Security to [illegible] to operate [illegible] subject to the conditions set forth in the Certificate of Authority, the applicable provisions of Republic Act No. 9497 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations, and other pertinent laws, rules and regulations promulgated by the Office for Transportation Security. This Certificate of Authority shall be valid for [illegible] unless sooner revoked or suspended for violation of any of the conditions herein provided.

Date Issued: [illegible]

For the Secretary of Transportation and Communications:

[illegible]
Undersecretary
Office for Transportation Security

AYURVEDA'S ANSWER TO ARTHRITIS

Practiced for thousands of years, this Ayurveda medical system has produced traditional formulations which have been proven effective and trusted for generations.

One such formulation is all-natural ARTHRID. Each capsule contains extracts of Sallaki guggul (Boswellia serrata) and Piper longum, Ayurvedic herbs with potent anti-inflammatory and analgesic properties for all types of arthritis such as:

- RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS
- OSTEOARTHRITIS
- JUVENILE RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS
- SPONDYLITIS
- ACUTE MUSCULAR RHEUMATISM
- LOWER BACK PAIN

ARTHRID helps improve blood supply to joints and restore the integrity of damaged vessels thereby relieving pain and increasing mobility.

ARTHRID should be started with a dose of 2 capsules two times a day. After two months, the ideal maintenance dose is one capsule two times a day after food.

Pain, pain, go away.

The world's largest and the most powerful high-speed IP-based broadband pure digital satellite CONFIGURED TO PROVIDE:

VIDEO ON DEMAND VIDEO CONFERENCING 2-WAY DISTANCE LEARNING IPTV WIMAX & WI-FI HOTSPOTS VOIP BROADCAST & MULTI-CAST INTRANET VPN POS & BANKING DATA & SECURITY BACKHAULING WIRELESS LEASED LINES

TNR TELECOMS, INC.
2nd Floor PET Plans Tower, Makati City, PHILIPPINES
Telephone: +632 3810690 | +632 4742744
Email: ipstarphils.tnrtel@yahoo.com
http://www.tnrtelecoms.com

InFocus

SHOW! Don't Tell.

Visualize your ideas in full confidence and clarity. InFocus business projectors magnify your thoughts in a most vivid and straight-forward manner. Real result comes with great conviction. Be InFocus and see The Big Picture.

X6
- DLP® BrilliantColor™
- 2800 ANSI Lumens
- SVGA (800 x 600)
- 2000 lamp hours

X15
- DLP® BrilliantColor™
- 3000 ANSI Lumens
- XGA (1024 x 768)
- 2000 lamp hours

P25,990*

Authorized Dealer: American Technologies, Inc. • 4 West St., Addition Hills, Mandaluyong • Tel: 891-0000 • Fax: 891-0888 • Email: inquiry@ati.com.ph • Url: www.ati.com.ph

Mike A need not show up in Senate

From page A1

Press Secretary Cerge Remonde yesterday asked critics of Mike Arroyo to present solid evidence.

"There are nothing until they are able to present evidence that are admissible in court," Remonde said. "This belongs in the realm of nothing but political black propaganda."

Bring the senator, the World Bank, through us officials, should attend the next hearing scheduled for Thursday to support the allegations, according to Sen. Jinkoi Revuyo.

"No appearance! Dy the World Bank], no case," Senator Arroyo said over radio.

Interviewed by the Inquirer later, the senator likened the World Bank investigation of immunity from participating in the Senate inquiry to the executive privilege cited by the President's Cabinet during congressional inquiries.

"In both cases, they don't want to testify. Both are confidentiality," Senator Arroyo said, noting that the Senate was "tyrannized" by the claim of executive privilege "and yet condones the claim of immunity. Why the double standard?"

Excerpts

The committee's panel list shows that World Bank officials are not invited to the next hearing.

Santiago's committee is set to resume its inquiry into the World Bank shelling of three Filipino contractors for collusion on Feb. 11 following the release of excerpts of the World Bank report.

The report indicated that the First Gentleman, the late Sen. Robert Barbers, other politicians and public works officials were taking bribes from the contractors in return for they bag the projects.

Excerpts of the World Bank report were released by Sen. Pacific Lacson, who called for the resumption of the hearing.

Lacson said that excerpts of the World Bank report showed that 10 unknown had linked Mike Arroyo to kickbacks in the building of construction projects.

In a statement, Jesse Robredo, one of Mike Arroyo's lawyers, called Lacson's attacks on the President's husband the "height of malice and abuse of parliamentary privilege."

Santiago has issued a subpoena to the Department of Finance and the Office of the Ombudsman to release a copy of the World Bank report to the Senate.

Asked on delib what her reservation would do should the President's husband seek to be excused from the hearing, Santiago said she would first consult with her colleagues—Senators Edgardo Angara and Ramon "Bong" Revilla Jr.—and Senate Minority Floor Leader Aquilino Pimentel III.

Santiago's committee and Revilla, the public works committee.

Santiago said whatever she and the three senators would decide would be the ruling on the matter. "But I am inclined to grant him (a request) to excuse him," she said of the President's husband.

Santiago said judges would normally accept a request to be excused if backed by a certification issued under oath by a doctor who would say that the appearance of the accused before the court could be life-threatening.

The President's husband underwent a delicate open-heart surgery in 2007 and still undergoes post-operation therapy.

Representative, deposition

She also said she would be "prepared to accept the testimony" of Mike Arroyo's representative to the hearing.

Still, she said that being a former judge, she would prefer that the First Gentleman execute a deposition before a lawyer and a stenographer from the Senate.

"Instead of us forcing him to go to the Senate, we will go to him to pose questions that he wants him to answer and he would answer them," Santiago said.

Sen. Francis Pangilinan also pushed for a deposition should Mike Arroyo be detained medically unfit to face the Senate. But he said the Senate medical staff should perform a separate examination of the President's husband to determine if what his doctors were saying were accurate.

Santiago acknowledged that what she had in possession was not the full World Bank report but only its decision which did not mention the alleged involvement of Mr. Arroyo's husband.

She said the World Bank first issued a memo and then came up with a redacted report and then finally, a decision to the allegations against the three contractors—R.C. de Leon Construction, Centre Ideal Construction and CM Pancho Construction.

"What's important is for us to get a copy of the redacted report because the World Bank doesn't want to give it to us. That's why I got mad because as if they don't respect the Senate," Santiago said.

She said this was the reason the Senate would ask Finance Secretary Margarito Teves and Ombudsman Merceditas Gutierrez to produce a copy because the World Bank furnished them the report as early as 2007.

Santiago said that she was not taking Gutierrez's pronouncement that the rules in her office were preventing her from disclosing the personalities involved in the World Bank report.

Santiago reminded Gutierrez that she couldn't use this line with the Senate as the Senate Code listed as an offense any disobedience to the subpoena of Congress.

She warned that if Gutierrez and Teves failed to submit the report, she would ask Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez to direct prosecutors to file a criminal complaint against them.

Santiago said this was better than going through the longer process of citing the officials for contempt as the rules would question the Senate before the Supreme Court.

Test case

"If I cannot obtain the original documents, I am allowed now to go to the secondary documents," Santiago said.

She said it would be a "good test case" if she would issue a subpoena duces tecum to the World Bank country director Ellen Hofman Sahanoff.

The World Bank has no headquarters' agreement with the Philippine government unlike the Asian Development Bank, according to Santiago.

Immunity

Santiago said the World Bank could be "protected" by a United Nations convention, but the institution could not use it as cover in refusing to give the Senate a copy of the report. "It has no absolute immunity," she said.

Senator Arroyo was also forced to believe that the World Bank had no diplomatic immunity. "The ADB has diplomatic status. I doubt the World Bank has that kind of immunity," he said in a phone interview.

He said World Bank officials should testify before the Senate because the multilateral agency was the accuser.

The World Bank report will not amount to evidence "unless World Bank officials attest to the veracity of the charges," he said.

Senator Arroyo underscored the importance of the World Bank supporting its claims, especially since the report implicated Herbert Love (deceased) who could not defend himself from contractors who were "fantasies and rumorless."

"It is not fair. You will accuse but you will not appear," Senator Arroyo said.

He also lamented that in this controversy, the World Bank "had absolved foreign contractors in the Philippines of corruption and at the same time condemned Filipino contractors." With reports from Norman Bordadora, Christine Avendaño and Christian V. Esguerra

Baby business: How far will parents go?

From page A1

color? And do they want a boy or a girl?

Are they aiming for an Olympian athlete, or will they trash the deck in favor of brainy-but-puny prowess? Why not both?

For some people, this would be a dream come true. For others, a nightmare of unleashing inequality-touching technologies.

For biologists, it raises acute questions about evolution.

The principle of species change through natural selection was set down by Charles Darwin, who was born 200 years ago on Feb. 12.

But what "natural selection" means when it comes to *Homo sapiens* is hard to define. It has already been challenged by medicine, habitat, diet and other factors that affect life span, reproduction and survivability.

Genetic selection means our species' evolutionary path would be even more radically changed.

We are not there yet—but the vision clearly does not belong to the fuzzy future of science fiction.

Profiles of donors

Scores of clinics in the United States, one of the least regulated markets for fertility services, already provide would-be parents in-depth profiles of potential sperm and egg donors.

Atlanta-based Xytex Corp., for example, offers a long list of genetically coded physical attributes, right down to the length of eyebrows, the presence of freckles and whether ear lobes are detached.

There is also a summary of the donor's medical history and—for an additional fee—personality and educational profiles, a personal essay and photos, as an adult and a baby.

Much of this information has no relation to genetic pedigree and even when it does, the result—a human child—may not come out as advertised. But that has not dampened enthusiasm for the tests.

Most heterosexual couples shop in this market to compensate for either male or female infertility.

But there is nothing—in science, or in some countries, law—to prevent matching a donor egg with donor sperm to create an embryo that can be purchased and implanted in the buyer's womb.

Desirable traits

This option was offered by at least one "embryo bank" in Texas, before it reluctantly withdrew the procedure under an ethical firestorm.

Two parents who don't need outside help to procreate may soon be clamoring for "preimplantation genetic diagnosis" of embryos to check not only for genetic defects and disease—the original intent—but also for sex and desirable traits as well, according to experts.

"We need to look carefully at these advances in technologies," said Stacey Dominsky of the Center for Genetics and Society in Oakland, California.

"It is not bad to have a desire for a girl or a boy," Dominsky said by phone. "But in that cosmic soul or bulletin board you can find room, for example, that doesn't just want a girl, but a particular kind of girl—'I want to go shopping with her, play Barbie Dolls, paint her toenails pink.'"

"What are they going to do if they don't get that kind of kid—take her back?" she said.

More problematic

An even more problematic scenario for some is the leap from genetic selection to genetic engineering.

That can happen in two ways. Gene therapy alters genes, for example, in a diseased organ in order to effect a cure.

But changes brought by so-called germline therapy alter the blueprint itself, the human genome, and would thus be passed on to offspring.

"The pressure to change genes will probably come from parents wanting to guarantee their child is a boy or a girl, or to endow them with beauty, intelligence, musical talent or a movie career," said Peter Ward, a scientist at University of Washington and author of "Future Evolution."

He says, germline therapy is out of reach. But were science to master the genome, the **temptation to mesh it to increase smarts,** looks and longevity would be overwhelming, Ward argued last month in Science.

"One day, we will have it in our power to bring a new human species into the world," he said.

Misplaced worries

Not all researchers agree. "I think that all of these worries are misplaced...genome is far too complex to allow for easy manipulation of human traits," said Steven Pinker, an evolutionary biologist at Harvard University.

Nearly all diseases and traits are determined not by one or two genes but the interaction of many, Pinker pointed out.

There is no such thing, in other words, as a master gene for intelligence or musicality.

"I doubt that parents would take a risk greater than 1 percent that something would go wrong," he said. "Testing is easy and safe. Manipulation is hard and risky." AFP

BUENA MANO AUCTION BONANZA

Going Once... Going Twice... Sold!

NOW UP TO 40% OFF FROM CURRENT MARKET VALUES

Thursday, March 12, 2009 at 10:00 a.m.

Very Affordable Prices! Easy Payment Terms! Low Interest Rates!

POOL A

CONDOMINIUM

HOUSE & LOT

VACANT LOT

VACANT LOT

POOL B

CONDOMINIUM

HOUSE & LOT

TOWNHOUSE

WAREHOUSE / BLDG.

VACANT LOT

VACANT LOT

PROPERTY MANAGEMENT AND SALES

Where good buys need not be expensive

Please present the following at the auction venue on March 12, 2009:

* Bidder Booklet or Kit (kindly visit a cashier's counter to pay P25,000 per property deposit to the Bank of the Philippine Islands (to be collected only if the bidder wins in the bidding)
* Valid ID (Driver's License, SSS / GSIS ID, valid passport, company ID)

ALL PROPERTIES ARE ON "AS-IS, WHERE-IS" BASIS

Properties may be withdrawn from the auction block without prior notice. Inadvertent inaccurate shall not alter the property's factual condition nor shall they be deemed as misrepresentations on the property. Properties not sold on March 12, 2009 shall be made available to other buyers at auction price from March 13 to April 13, 2009 on a first-come, first-served basis.

For inquiries, CALL NOW!

CENTURY PROPERTIES MANAGEMENT, INC.
Monday-Sunday, 7:00 am - 7:00 pm
Hotlines: 819-7377 or 811-6234
Fax: 819-7374 Cel: 0915-649-5849
0915-897-0216 0918-284-9176

Across the NATION

Floods, landslides kill 5 in Negros

By Kea V. Pal, *Inquirer Visayas*

DUMAGUETE CITY—AT LEAST FIVE PEOPLE HAVE been reported killed in floods in Negros Oriental after strong steady rains brought about by a low pressure area east of Mindanao caused rivers and creeks to rise by up to four meters on Saturday.

The rains also caused the cancellation of the morning and afternoon flights of Philippine Airlines and Cebu Pacific between Dumaguete and Manila, stranding more than 400 passengers.

The floods washed away a still undetermined number of houses and swept many parts of Dumaguete and other towns and cities.

Reports reaching the Provincial Disaster Coordinating Council indicated enormous property damage to what is considered the worst flooding in the last 50 years.

The names of the five fatalities were not immediately available.

Gov. Emilio Macias II, who had been monitoring the extent of damage, said three of those killed were washed away by the flood while two children died in landslides in the mountains of Bagtang, Valencia.

"We have not yet started to determine the damage because the flooded areas are still inundated and cannot be reached," Dumaguete Mayor Agustin Hicdoco said on Saturday night.

Damaged properties

The flooding started receding by late afternoon as the rains subsided. But houses, offices, stores and warehouses had already been damaged, Perrelos said.

The most hard-hit damaged properties in Barangay Piapi, 4 kilometers south of Dumaguete, and Bocot, Bantay, about 10 km north of the city.

"The rains appeared to be centered on the mountain range above these areas so this is where we are getting a lot of damage reports from," Macias said.

He said several landslides had been reported in the mountains of Bais City, but the damages was worse in the coastal areas which were battered by both floods and waves. "It was a double whammy," he said.

A flooded creek near the airport disrupted the services of tricycles and other small public utility jeepneys. Passengers waded in knee-deep water just to get a ride back to the city proper.

Knee-deep floods were also reported along the national highway heading south to Bacong.

"This is worse than [the flooding on] Dec. 31. There are parts of houses each by, along with most of the garbage from the city dump," said Tony Cenina-Vinalles, who lives along the Banica River in Barangay Daguroy.

Residents living in communities near the Banica River also left their homes and stayed with friends or relatives, fearing worse flooding in the evening.

Batangas militant, companion killed; PAF denies role in attack

BATANGAS CITY—THE LEADER of a militant Bayanihan group has pointed to Air Force soldiers behind the killings of one of its members here and a companion on Saturday in Calatagan, Batangas.

Two to three days before the killing of Wilfredo Gonzales, PAF soldiers were looking for him at his house in Barangay Bolbok, according to Isabelo Alvarez, chair of the Pambansang Lakas ng Kilusang Masa-mamayan ng Pilipinas (Pamamayan) in Southern Tagalog.

Gonzales had been involved in the controversy's fight for the distribution of 2,800 hectares of Ayala lands to farmers and Bolinao lands in 30 coastal villages in Calatagan, said Alcuza, who is also president of the Bukid ng Bayanihan, Inc. (Bagi (Bukid).

Denial

Maj. Gerry Estacio, PAF public information officer based in Villamor Air Base, denied Alcuza's allegations in a phone interview.

Another PAF official, who refused to be named because he was not authorized to speak for the unit, said the PAF and the Armed Forces of the Philippines did not resort to murderous acts.

"Linking the PAF in the incident is just an attempt to discredit its name as it is quite successful in promoting peace, order and development in the area," he added.

Gonzales, 51, a Dumalaleos and Bulungan member, was driving his Isuzu elf truck to Barangay Bukay when armed men shot him and his companion, identified as Neil de Castro, at about 6:30 a.m. De Castro was a village mate of Gonzales and just finished a ride.

Chief Insp. Elpidio Fuentes, Calatagan police chief, said the men ambushed multiple bullet wounds in different parts of the body and died on the spot.

The assailants, who were wearing helmets, escaped on a motorcycle.

Police recovered spent shells from an M-16 rifle and .45 cal. pistol on the area.

Reuters said Gonzales left his home at about 5:45 a.m. to fetch a son in Bolong.

Gonzales was a former town councilor and led actively joined protest over a 2,000-ha land dispute in Calatagan, Batangas said.

Thorough probe urged

"We are calling for a thorough investigation [on this case] because this has to do with the land dispute issue," Alcuza said.

Pamalakaya's national chair Fernando Hicap dared Defense Secretary Gilbert Teodoro and AFP Chief of Staff Alexander Yano to pull out the PAF and other units of the AFP, including all military agents, from the first and second districts of Batangas to set "independent and objective fact-finding mission and investigation could take place."

He said Teodoro and Yano must allow the top military officials in Batangas to be subjected to the independent investigation.

Hicap had earlier planned to appear the Senate and the House committees on human rights and defense to investigate the case. *Marvin Erdin Lacuba, with a report from Marvin Cleto, Inquirer Southern Luzon*

WALK FOR AGRARIAN REFORM

Farmers from southern Negros Occidental march yesterday along the highway in Barangay Amlimgan, Isabela, Negros Occidental. The march was dubbed "Lakad Mag-uuma Tungo sa Mabuluhang Repormang Pansakahan" (Farmers' March for Meaningful Agrarian Reform).

Court bars mayor's sister from Boracay resort

By Hector P. Bergado Jr.
Inquirer Visayas

KALIBO, Philippines—A municipal court in Aklan has barred the sister of Malay Mayor Clarence Cawaling from further occupying part of the apartment building of another Boracay resort operator in Boracay.

In an order issued by the Municipal Circuit Trial Court of Buruanga-Malay dated Feb. 5, Judge Noel Rarina granted the motion of Greg Hutchinson for a writ of preliminary mandatory injunction against Ailalie Cawaling-Rivera, a sister of Cawaling.

Hutchinson and his wife Vivien earlier filed a complaint of forcible entry and damages and asked the court to issue an injunction against Rivera and Evangeline Dalisay for the forcible takeover of Boracay Beachfronthouse on June 5, 2008.

Rivera has been occupying the ground floor of Hutchinson's three-story apartment adjacent to the 6,000-square-meter property where the resort is located.

Rarina said in his order that Rivera "occupies without any other right the ground floor of the Boracay Beach Arthur The Apartments."

Rivera, the lot owner, is fighting control over the property claiming she had terminated the original lease contract with Hutchinson with the 10-year extension until Dec. 6, 2010, for alleged violations, including the failure of the Hutchinsons to secure the approval of her co-ranged husband Carla Rivera to the extended contract.

Hutchinson has denied the alleged violations and has questioned in court the legality of the termination of their lease contract with Rivera.

But in the same order, Rarina denied the motion for injunction against Dalisay, stating that Dalisay was already in possession of Beachfronthouse since 1998.

The Hutchinsons had invested around the contract with sub-lessee Dalisay and her partners in February 2006 for alleged violations of the contract. But Dalisay has accused the Hutchinsons of illegally operating her boss her leased property.

Vivien Hutchinson, who has been holed up inside the apartment for three and half months since the takeover, welcomed the ruling.

"This might signal the end of our captivity, but it signals the beginning of a struggle to get back its economy, to be reinstated from the trauma and terror that my husband, 3-year-old twins, staff and I had been suffering since Rivera and Dalisay illegally took over Beachfronthouse Resort and The Apartments with armed goons 83 days ago," she said in an e-mailed statement via the Internet.

Greg said in the statement were hierarchy that he and their children left the penthouse a month ago so that they could go back to school and "for them to get back to normal activities."

Dalisay earlier a phone interview on Saturday that the court ruling proved her legal claim over the resort. She said Rivera would appeal the ruling so the 270-sqm lot where Hutchinson's apartment is located.

Rivera said she would implement the ruling against Rivera and appeal the decision on the restraining order.

The dispute has paralyzed operations of the resort in Barangay Balabag in the northern end of the island. The Boracay Special Tourist Police Office has been guarding the resort's premises to maintain order and prevent violence.

NEWSBRIEFS

■ METRO MANILA

Insurance agent nabbed

POLICE arrested an insurance agent and seized fake various registration documents from him during a raid in Tacoma City on Friday.

City police chief Supt. Joel Linsoan said the raid was conducted at the local office of First Integrated Insurance Co. following complaints from motorists owners.

The vehicle owners charged that Romeo Fernando Dela Cruz had issued forged receipts bearing the name of the Land Transportation Office and fake certificates of registration.

Linsoan said Dela Cruz could be involved in a syndicate engaged in the issuance of fake LTO papers to motornotorcycles and vehicles in Central Mindanao.

The police official said the suspect would be charged with falsification of public documents.

Charlie C. Delvo Jr. Inquirer Mindanao

■ LAGUNA

MMDA traffic aide held for extortion

POLICE arrested a traffic aide of the Metro Manila Development Authority on Friday for extortion.

Laguna police director Senior Supt Marcelino Labadlor said in a text message that Philip Antonio, 41, an MMDA traffic aide assigned to Muntinlupa City, was arrested in a police operations at around 5 p.m. in Barangay Candelaria, Biñan.

He said a shuttle bus operations manager earlier reported that Antonio was extorting money from motorists.

Recovered from him were P3,000 in marked money and a motorcycle of the MMDA.

Marlon Ramos, Inquirer Southern Luzon

■ CAMARINES SUR

Certified seeds given

THE DEPARTMENT of Agriculture distributed 3,000 sacks of certified seeds to replace the damage to rice crops plants in 12,000 hectares in Camarines Sur and Iriga City.

In the past two months due to flooding.

Jose V. Dayao, DA regional executive director, said seeds were bought under the rice assistance programs and from the regular contingency funds of the regional office.

Aside from flooding, rice production was also damaged by an infestation of tilles and Camarines Sur. *Jose Cervantes Jr., Inquirer Southern Luzon*

■ ILOILO

Village chief survives murder try

A BATANGUEY captain in Carlan survived a murder attempt on Monday when armed men fired at his car as he passed run police said.

Melvin Santos, 37, was attacked on his vehicle after attending a meeting at 2 a.m. when the men fired at his car. He was unhurt. The incident happened after Santos filed on Jan. 29 before the Office of the Ombudsman charges of abuse of authority, grave misconduct, abuse of discretion and dereliction of duty against town members of Barbara accused but allegedly ordering his successor for six months.

He added the suspension order illegal saying the complaints filed by two officials of his barangay were not backed by evidence.

Carmela Reyes, Inquirer Central Luzon

■ BACOLOD CITY

UP teachers appeal

AT LEAST 96 faculty members of the University of the Philippines Baguio have asked the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) to reconsider its joint venture agreement with giant shopping mall SM to build four high-rise condominium structures in a forest park.

In an open letter to GSIS president Winston Garcia, the teachers said they were dismayed that SM Development Corp. (SMDC) and GSIS had planned to "destroy yet another forest in the already critically deforested City of Baguio" by pursuing their proposed SM Air Residences at the forest park near the Baguio Convention Center. "We appeal to the planners to consider the long-term effects of deforestation and forest degradation," said the teachers in their letter. "We urge the GSIS and SMDC to put corporate social responsibility ahead of profit considerations, and join efforts to reduce carbon emissions by preserving and protecting the forest at the convention center area." *Inquirer Northern Luzon*

CAUGHT Bicol Operations Director Leopoldo Bataoil (left) and Coast Guard Commander Ray Rivera (right) inspect the Taiwanese fishing vessel, off the coast of Talikud Island in Island Garden City of Samal after it was found carrying nine Chinese and two Taiwanese crew members on board that were charged with illegal entry and poaching. *(CHARLIE DELVO JR. INQUIRER MINDANAO)*

11 Indons, 2 Taiwanese held for poaching in Samal

DAVAO CITY—ELEVEN (11) Indonesians and two Taiwanese were arrested for illegal entry and poaching off Talikud Island in the Island Garden City of Samal on Thursday.

The foreigners are crew members of the Indonesian-registered fishing boat FV Karya Pelayu, which was intercepted by the Coast Guard 1.5 nautical miles from the island.

The vessel was carrying about 200 tons when intercepted.

Coast Guard city commander Ray Echiverria said illegal entry and poaching charges had already been filed against the fishermen, who were told to stay in the boat while it is docked at the Sta. Ana Wharf here.

The fishermen are being closely guarded by Coast Guard and Navy authorities pending their case in court.

Echiverria said the language barrier made it difficult for them to know what led the fishing boat to enter the Philippine waters without proper clearance.

"They have no papers to show that they are not authorized to do business in the Philippines," Echiverria said.

All of the fishermen were cooperative to the authorities, he said.

The confiscated boat will be turned over to Bureau of the Customs, but the Coast Guard has yet to secure the custody which agency will get the cargo.

The foreigners are now being helped by the Indonesian consul office. But it will be up to the court to decide," Echiverria said.

The added that it would have been different if the fishermen had proper documents to show that they are allowed to catch fish in Philippine waters as what was agreed upon in the earlier fishing cooperation agreement the Indonesia-Malaysia-Philippines-East Asia Growth Area (BIMP-EAGA) economic cooperation.

Echiverria said deportation proceedings would also be conducted against the fishermen.

In 2007, an Indonesian vessel was also spotted near the island, but authorities were not able to intercept it. *Dennis Jay Santos, Inquirer Mindanao*

Negros Red leader slams program for sugar workers

By Carla P. Gomez
Inquirer Visayas

BACOLOD CITY—THE TOP COMMUnist guerrilla leader in Negros Occidental criticized as palliative the province's program to help sugar farm workers cope with the so-called dead season when there's no work for them.

Pastor Fernandez, farmers' priest and spokesperson of the National Democratic Front (NDF) in Negros, said the program was only meant to divert Negros from the basic problems that beset the farmers.

The province outlined the program that included selling cheaper rice in sugar farm hauls who would be out of work. Fernandez described it as "a sham dole mystery and diversion in addressing the problem of poverty and hunger."

The provincial government announced that it was allocating P15 million for food-for-work programs that will pay rice to jobless sugar farm workers performing menial jobs.

The Provincial Sugar Industry Task Force also sought the release by the Department of Labor and Employment of forfeited Sugar Stabilization Funds to help the farm workers.

Enrique Miguel Lacson, task force chair, said authorities were asking the release of P2 million for rice subsidy but the DOLE this week said the unreleased amount was only P1.6 million.

Funds for the subsidy program would only end up in the pockets of politicians running in the 2010 elections, Fernandez warned.

"If there is aid coming, it will only be for a few kilos of rice for the farm workers. This is only a drop in the bucket compared to the lion's share of the landlords who are in fact in control of the sugarcreasy power here in Negros," he said.

Farm workers are kept poor because they have no land to till despite the expiring Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Law, Fernandez said.

He said top officials of the provincial government were the ones leasing sugarcane to ovals agrarian reform by applying their lands in Bacolodan City for reclassification from agricultural to industrial or commercial.

P9M pledged to jump-start Sierra Madre eco-initiative

By Riza T. Olchondra

AT LEAST P9 MILLION in funding from various sectors has been pledged to protect resources in the Sierra Madre mountain range, with the national government pitching in to curb unauthorized logging and provide alternative livelihood to people who used to depend on the illegal activity.

Above P8 million in funding will come from the auction of illegal logs confiscated by the provincial government, Isabela Gov. Grace Padaca told reporters on the sidelines of the Sierra Madre stakeholders meeting in Quezon City.

Mega-survey

"We have obtained commitments from the DENR (Department of Environment and Natural Resources) to use the money directly for Sierra Madre instead of the usual practice of centralized funding," she said.

Much of the P8 million will be used to start a 150-hectare mega-nursery she said.

Meanwhile, a grant of P1 million from the multinational Philippine Tropical Forest Conservation Foundation will be used in support soldiers' guarding Sierra Madre forest areas in terms of equipment and food, among others, Padaca said.

The national government, for its part, will devote part of a P2.3-billion fund for planting trees and crops to anti-illegal logging efforts in Sierra Madre and the Cordillera, Environment Secretary Lito Atienza told reporters.

"We will determine within the next week or so how much can be allocated to these two priority areas," Atienza said.

Atienza also announced that a body for Sierra Madre will coordinate all efforts from public and private sources to ensure that activities complement each other.

Watershed

The Sierra Madre mountain traverse the provinces of Cagayan, Isabela, Nueva Vizcaya, Quirino, Aurora, Nueva Ecija, Bulacan, Rizal, Laguna and Quezon.

It supplies water for 10 million people living in and around its territory, including 11 indigenous groups.

In Isabela alone 300,000 farmers of rice and corn depend on the Sierra Madre's waters for their farming activities, World Wildlife Fund Philippines vice-chairperson Lavinia Tan said.

"But how many depend on illegal logging to subsist? about 3,000. We can provide livelihood for them through the money. In this way we can preserve the resources for the 300,000 farmers and for countless other beneficiaries," Tan said.

The mountain range also hosts about 60 percent of animal species found in Luzon.

'Malunggay' ice cream, anyone?

From page A1

Lemongrass ice bloom pomelo and ube (yam) flavors.

And surprise, surprise—the veggie flavors are a tremendous hit.

In less than a year, Bontgo, named after the village which is home to the ice cream factory, has grown and now has eight ice cream peddlers.

This early, Bontgot owner Wilhem Pargot has decided to share his success. For every P10 cup or cone of ice cream sold, Bontgot will donate P1 to the feeding program of San Ildefonso students.

Let them eat malunggay

Another culinary hit in Ilocos is the malunggay cake.

A version of it Ilocos bakeshop in Sta. Domingo town, the malunggay cake is actually a hint of 76 muffins sold for P110.

The ingredients, according to bakeshop owner Elizabeth Serafico, are malunggay leaves, sugar, egg, raisins and baking soda.

Ilocanos says most of her customers are Ilocanos who buy baked goods as gifts and vouchers who sell the muffins in their vendoras.

"The markets in our place have suggested that I put more vegetables in my products," she says.

Go veggies

"Go veggies!" seems to be the Ilocano people's rallying cry against global recession.

In Ilocos, Sta. Domingo is promoting squash noodles for its One Town One Product (OTOP) program, which the town sells to local and international markets.

Ilocos Sur Gov. Deogracias Victor Savellano has also started his "Pinakbet Pasma," a flagship project for Ilocos Sur's outpoverty program.

"We are going back to the basics with backyard gardening," he says.

It has allocated P2.3 million for the promotion of vegetable gardening in Ilocos Sur.

Longest gourd

Provincial Administrator Ricky Co says the Ilocano people are known for being vegetable eaters, thus, vegetables were featured in the Kamanavalan (Harvest) Festival held here from Jan. 28 to Feb. 3.

"There was a food fair, cultural dances and a fashion show using Ilocano fabrics," Co says.

There was also a trade and agricultural fair which showcased the province's services and products including vegetables.

A crowd favorite was the "Pinakbet" contest where the biggest vegetables were on exhibit. Popular were the longest and biggest ampalaya (bitter gourd), the longest saurings from the biggest papaya, the longest tanglad, the longest eggplant, the longest string beans and the biggest camote.

Also on exhibit were the biggest catfish and sea turtles.

Simple people

"Although the prizes were modest, there was fierce competition among the farmers here," Savellano says.

Co says since Ilocos depends heavily on remittances from overseas contract workers and immigrants, the effect of the world recession is most felt here.

"But Ilocanos are simple people. As long as they have vegetables in their backyards, they are content," she says.

Legions facing layoffs turn to parties, Internet

NEW YORK—THE BAR WAS crowded with well-dressed professionals enjoying drinks and conversation, a typical evening—except than many of them had no job.

The event: A Wall Street Pink Slip Party, where the unemployed mix with recruiters and various bystanders to network, look for work, and share their stories.

With employers shedding 600,000 more jobs in January, the endorsement at the party is a Manhattanite has undoubtedly given.

"Wall Street, directly or indirectly, has ruined the best 30 years of my life," Stuart Lange said, speaking of colleagues and friends she lost on Sept. 15, 2008, and the many more after being laid off from her job as an AIG training manager, that her world has again turned on its head.

"I'm devastated," the 39-year-old woman said.

Figures released on Friday showed that the US unemployment rate hit 7.6 percent in January, a month with more layoffs than at any other time since 1974.

Shrinking opportunity

Job seekers are gathering in bars, delving into the business networking website LinkedIn, ranting in front of city help centers, and even roaming up hopeful conversations with prospective-looking strangers on commuter trains—all in the hope of landing jobs in what seems to be a shrinking pool of opportunity.

"There have been hiring freezes. And they have cutbacks. And they have layoffs. There are a lot more people in the job market," said 22-year-old Ann Arendell, who has been searching for work since August last year.

At first, she was looking only for a job in her field, graphic design. But as the months have gone by, Arendell has lowered her expectations.

"Right now, I'll take anything," she said on Friday as she left a New York City civic office that offers resume-writing assistance and interview training.

Already having given up hope for a Wall Street job working BBE,000 per year right out of college, recent graduate David Gardner is getting creative as he tries to expand his business network.

The 23-year-old Gardner has begun hanging around commuter trains and suburban trains, chatting up professional-looking types traveling to and from corporate jobs.

Recently, at an electronics concert—a wildly different atmosphere than at the career services office in his university—he talked to some fans who introduced him to an entertainment industry manager. Now he's preparing for a job interview with the man.

Meetup

Gardner is not the only one looking for new ways to meet people. Among the groups using the networking service Meetup, the NYC Job Seekers & Career Strategy group has more than doubled in size to 454 people since September, with more than 95 joining since the first of the year.

Worldwide, Meetup has seen a boom in career-related groups. More than 2,000 were started in January, compared to about 500 a month over the summer, according to spokesperson Andrew Shuman.

Chandler Bolden, a résumé writer and career coach acting as a mentor for the group, said she had seen it coming. Initially, people attending the meetings were pondering a career switch, not of a desire for something new.

Now, participants to talks on online networking and interviewing techniques are more often being forced into the brain, either because they have been laid off or because they believe they might be.

Bryan said the meetings had helped people fight off the solitude that comes with losing jobless.

"There's a great deal of isolation," she said. "That compliments the process and makes it harder, given that the majority of people find their jobs through networking."

Reincarnation

That's the point of the Wall Street Pink Slip Party—modeled after one the events held following the closures base. Since the reincarnation was launched last November, the economy or the parties is increasing, according to organizer Rachel Pine.

A pink slip tshirt to the tune of pink paper by some homeless encampaniles for the employer's copy of a dismissal notice.

The first event drew a sum of people, only a quarter of them laid off by the Feb. 4 event, 60 to 80 percent of the 600 people were looking for work.

Pine wrote in the Inculding Publications bar on Wednesday night was varied, as ours and sweaters in a mix of suits and corporate casual wear—and pink glow-in-the-dark wristbands that marked them as job seekers—banded to an executive wearing green wristbands.

PINK SLIP PARTY Hundreds of people looking for finance and artist jobs attend the Wall Street Pink Slip Party to meet recruiters at Public House in New York. AP

Some were approaching their job search with equanimity, figuring they would rely on savings rather than the flush years. Others seemed more desperate, wanting their change after paying for the cost check. Some, drink in hand, sounded almost bitter about their personal economic downturn.

Growing sense of ire

Andrea Bonnarme screamed nothing the Upper Road with a growing sense of ire, as the size of millions of dollars that her former employer Bear Stearns had spent on advertising instead of salaries.

"They kind of compensated people for the actual advertising," the former marketing manager said, adding that since she got her pink slip she's been drinking only Coca-Cola.

Options are more limited back at a city employment center in Brooklyn, where 40-year-old Beatrice Moulton, who held jobs as a retail salesman, recounted months of dashed hopes.

After recently he returned to the job placement center, only to see a more enthusiastic counselor turn sombre as she studied his prospects.

"She clearly wanted to help me. She clearly wanted to have some good news to give me," Moulton said. "But she had none." AP

Libre? For Sale!

Tapping the wide readership base of **Inquirer Libre**, **Inquirer Libre Classifieds** will feature **"For Sale"**, **"For Hire"** and / or **"For Rent"** of **Real Estate**, **Transportation** and **General Items & Services**.

The new classified ads section will be published **every Thursday** starting **February 12, 2009** and will have a pass-on readership validity of one week.

Inquirer Libre Classifieds provides a captive audience with the time to read news and advertising messages. It is distributed to MRT 3, LRT students and your favorite convenience stores in Metro Manila **every Thursday**.

Place an ad in Libre Classifieds for a minimal fee and get more leads and closed sales!

Line Ad - P 60.00 / line
Box Ad - P 245.00 / col.cm

*Rates are VAT exclusive

BONUS! Advertise now and get free one week online exposure in BUZUNE.ph!

LIBRE Classifieds ☐ Services ☐ Automobile ☐ Real Estate ☐ Web ☐ For Rent ☐ Others _____

Name: _____
Contact Number: _____
Signature: _____

Please fax or email the accomplished form to an Inquirer Classified Ads branch nearest you.

TELEPHONE NOS.

Microchip engineers packing up

From page A1

Traditionally the vanguard of the region's exporters, Asia's outsourcing makers are reeling from the impact of falling global demand.

Intersil, like thousands of other industry employers, is considering robust job will go next.

"It feels like there's a sword hanging by a thread over your head," the mother of two told a reporter Pastor Perez, her husband of 20 years in the technology sector.

"We have already started pushing our things just in case. We have also scouted place to buy an apartment," said Llorens, who requested that her real name and that of her company be withheld.

Global sales of semiconductors fell 2.8 percent to $248.6 billion in 2008 from 2007, the first year-on-year drop in seven years, the US-based Semiconductor Industry Association (SIA) said this month.

In the Asia Pacific region, sales went down nearly 22 percent last December compared to the same month in 2007, according to figures on the SIA website.

"Weakening demand for the major drivers of semiconductor sales—including automotive products, personal computers, cell phones, and consumer information technology products entailed in industry drop in industry sales that affected nearly all product lines," said SIA president George Scalise.

Trend continuing

The trend is seen continuing this year, and Asia is expected to feel the economic impact more severely because much of the world's production of electronic equipment is concentrated in the region, according to analysts.

They predict more job losses, company mergers and bankruptcies in the semiconductor industry, a major employer of skilled workers.

"For 2009, we do see the market being different quite substantially," said Philip Koh, a vice president at market research firm Gartner.

Japanese electronic giants have announced tens of thousands of job cuts. As demand for microchips softens, company earnings have plunged.

Feeble recovery

Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Co., the world's leading contract microchip maker, said last month that its net profit in the fourth quarter last year had plunged 60.9 percent compared to the same period the previous year.

Singapore-based Chartered Semiconductor, another major global outsourcing maker, announced a fourth-quarter net loss of $134 million.

Koh said the industry should hit bottom this year, with a feeble recovery likely to begin in 2010, however, this scenario will depend largely on global economic conditions in the first six months of 2009, he added.

"Of course, if the situation gets worse over the quarters or [worse], the semiconductor recovery will be much slower," he said.

Gartner forecasts global semiconductor sales to plunge by more than 22 percent this year from 2008. The Asia-Pacific region is likely to contract this decline, according to Koh.

Another market intelligence firm, IDC, expects worldwide semiconductor revenue to contract by an annual 22 percent to $192 billion this year.

Shane Rau, a research director at IDC, said that the recession in the microchip sector should loosen out in the first half followed by a gradual recovery later in the year, although some segments may take longer to rebound.

Mergers

Companies that make memory chips are likely to be the first to seek mergers, Rau added.

"Qimonda in Germany and certain memory companies in Taiwan are in the throes of pending consolidation," he said.

Qimonda, which declared bankruptcy in January, is a spinoff from a US factory in Richmond, Virginia, that employed 3,000 workers.

Struggling Japanese computer chipmaker Elpida Memory Inc. has said it is in talks with chip companies in Taiwan to boost cooperation, while Japan's Nikkei business daily reported last month that Toshiba and NEC Corp. have been holding discussions on integrating their semiconductor operations.

Consumer confidence

Mott Walker, an analyst with research firm Gartner, said consumer confidence was vital for the industry's rebound, while Gartner analyst Koh added that a recovery in the economies for the economy was the key to lifting the battered chip sectors.

"For spending at all levels to really rebound, there needs to be much more certainty and confidence than there is now," Walker said.

Koh added: "Ultimately, most of the region depends on the US market, whether it is China, Taiwan, Singapore or Malaysia."

Pastor, chip engineer Llorens hopes the economy comes around rather than later. "There are also no jobs back home," she said. AFP

Muslim clerics enter kidnappers' camp

HUNDREDS OF ARMED CIVILIANS who joined police and military forces surrounding the jungles of Indanan on Jolo island were granting cautious as fresh initiatives were mounted to negotiate the release of three kidnapped Red Cross workers.

There was no immediate report on the outcome of Vice Gov. Nurallaine Sahidulla's latest effort to talk to the kidnappers yesterday. "We still have to confirm if she has come back," Lt. Col. Bruno Pascal, regional military spokesperson, told a local radio station.

Sahidulla has visited the captives on Jan. 28, but failed to secure their release.

Two Muslim clerics also entered the kidnappers' camp yesterday and were given 24 hours to resolve the crisis, government sources said.

Senator Panfilo Lacson, a retired police chief, said the 600 civilian volunteers were different from the government forces deployed in strategic positions around the jungle starting Thursday. He declined to say how large an area had been cordoned off.

"We needed an emergency force to help in the armed forces' seal off the area of the kidnappers. It's a vast area," Ritahil told The Associated Press by telephone.

Jolo Mayor Hussin Amin confirmed there was "fresh movement" of civilian volunteers in the Indanan hinterland.

"We are very tired now," a member of the volunteer force told the inquirer.

"We've been waiting for the order to go on assault. Unfortunately, someone or some people up there (national government) are again meddling in our affairs here. We really want to eliminate these bandits," he said.

Sen. Richard Gordon, chair of the Philippine National Red Cross, expressed alarm that the deployment of civilians might endanger the kidnapped workers of the Geneva-based International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

"I have made an appeal to authorities to be very careful with these people who are not disciplined soldiers," Gordon said. "They are militias with arms, wearing slippers."

Andreas Stoter of Switzerland, Eugenio Vagni of Italy and Mary Anne Lacaba of the Philippines were seized by gunmen on Jan. 15 after they inspected a water project on Jolo.

An Abu Sayyaf commander, Albader Parad, has demanded that troops rearranged nearby withdraw to allow hostage negotiations.

Sulu Gov. Abdusakur Tan, who heads a provincial task force dealing with the crisis, has rejected any military withdrawal. He has declined to say what he will extract in force in end the crisis, saying other steps were being taken to persuade the kidnappers to free the hostages unconditionally.

Another group of suspected Abu Sayyaf bandits burned a school on Friday in Indanan near Sulawesi, in an apparent attempt to drive residents from their surrounded communities. No one was hurt in the attack, Reuters said.

Ritahil said that there had been an indication that the captives had been physically harmed by the self-styled Islamist gunmen, who have been blamed for some of the deadliest terrorist attacks in the Philippines, including bombings, kidnappings and beheadings.

However, Ritahil said the Indian had hypertension. The government's earlier said medicine had been delivered to him to ease his condition.

Government sources said that the two Muslim clerics who entered the kidnappers' camp were handpicked by Tan. Perfecto reports from AFP and Julie L. Alipala, Inquirer Mindanao

SC probe of magistrates in rural bank cases urged

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

CALOOCAN CITY (MindaNews/9 February) — Lawmakers on Sunday urged the Supreme Court to investigate the magistrates who prevented the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) from acting on the cash problems of the Legacy Group's rural banks that allegedly have misappropriated P600 million and P1 billion more in fund placements from investors and depositors.

Rodriguez said he would like to see Supreme Court Justice Minita C. Antonio-Melencio of Branch 28 of the Manila Regional Trial Court and Justice Apolinario D. Bruselas of the Court of Appeals' 8th Division for unduly preventing the BSP from using its liquidity in allowing troubled rural banks to protect depositors.

Rodriguez said he would also ask the House committee on banks and financial intermediaries, which is scheduled to conduct another hearing today, to summon Melencio and Bruselas.

"They should explain their actions because the law does not allow the courts to block BSP investigations of fraudulent transactions," Rodriguez told the Inquirer.

Magistrates' violation

The lawmaker said the two magistrates violated Section 25 of the New Central Bank Act of 1993, which gives the BSP the powers to immediately act on banks facing insolvency problems.

In June 2008, the Legacy Group obtained a court order from the Manila RTC preventing the Monetary Board from acting on a new BSP audit of the troubled rural banks. The BSP was spurred a second time when the Court of Appeals upheld the RTC decision.

The Legacy Group claimed then it was decided that process by BSP examiners who did not show their reports to the subject banks before submitting them to the Monetary Board.

The BSP finally acted on its examiners' recommendations to close the 13 banks in November after the Supreme Court dismissed down the decisions of the Court of Appeals and the Regional Trial Court.

Rodriguez said that had the BSP been able to clean down the banks as early as June last year, the Legacy Group would have not been able to dupe a number of investors and depositors into putting their money in the banks.

BSP officials earlier stated that between P600 million and P1-billion more than the bank and have been trapped in the banks after they were finally closed down last December.

The BSP has charged a number of the officers, employees and agents of the rural banks with falsifying bank keep to siphon off deposits from the bank funds into their personal accounts.

The man behind the Legacy Group, Celso de los Angeles, was accommodated in his appearance in the House of Representatives last week.

De los Angeles, now mayor of Sta. Domingo, Albay, said the BSP had erred in not giving the rural banks fair play to investigation and that the adverse publicity from the probe drove the banks to close down.

He claimed that a foreign investor was waiting in the wings to take over his failed network of Legacy rural banks had the BSP provided him with cash support to stay in operation just a bit longer.

"They were in the BSP and PDIC (Philippine Deposit Insurance Co.) to digitally check interest in December. Just one more week, the lifeline would have come in. The white knight would have come in the first quarter," De los Angeles said in an interview with reporters after the hearing.

He said he had not talked to the potential investor since the banks closed. "They are supposed to come back this first quarter. If they (BSP) only allowed it or (at least) gave them a, a foreign investor would have come in and we would have not had this mess," he said.

Kidnap victim walks, swims to freedom

Front page A1

ot living him to the village of Sinsi in Lamitan where he told police and Mayor Benjamin Chair Sinitch Maulana of his escape.

Chief Supt. Orlando Demaala of the Lamitan police, who refused to the Supreme Guerrero's statement, said that after Guerrero was kidnapped on Jan. 28, he was taken to the mountains in Sibilan town.

Demaala said the shootout the suburbs mentioned was in Barangay Bristol, also in Akbar.

Dr. Vicente Sy, Lamitan health officer, reported relief after hearing about Guiterrez's freedom. After the kidnapping, the Lamitan City Health Office had decided to stop sending medical personnel to the area.

Muhammad Ajid town mayor Talib Pawaki said the order of military operations since Feb. 2 might have forced a group of kidnappers holding Amerie Jelou Reyes, Ferdon Quiazo and Daniel Sikpenaida, members of Landing Dan Interpoint School in Antabongo City, to free their victims.

The members were kidnapped on Jan. 23 and were brought in Muhammad Ajid town in Basilan.

Two other kidnapping victims remain in captivity—Leah Parita, a retired nurse of the Kauswagan Community Development Foundation Inc. based in Basilan town who was kidnapped on Feb. 3, and a 9-year-old boy who was abducted on Jan. 31.

BSP files fraud raps against Legacy execs

Front page A1

ing to unsafe and unsound banking practices.

The Legacy Group also included three personal firms, a credit card company and an auto financing firm, which have all ceased operation. The personal firms have some 50,000 plus holders.

Holders of UKAS accounts, which have a total of P14.4 billion in deposits, cannot withdraw their money from the distressed banks. The accounts, however, are insured as such has P350,000 to depositor in the event.

Espenilla said more cases would be filed against Legacy employees and agents as the BSP continued to investigate other Legacy banks.

Fictitious loans

The latest wave of charges was the result of BSP investigations showing that the four Legacy banks declared fictitious loans, he said.

The banks made to appear that the loans, supported by deposits, were obtained by legitimate borrowers but were in fact diverted by bank officers and employees for their or the stockholders' personal use.

Installed these sums used to support the bank loans included mayors' persons, and registration certificates from the Department of Trade and Industry, Espenilla said.

Commissions

The BSP probe also revealed that the four Legacy banks paid commissions to individuals who lobed loan applications.

"During the validation process, many of the banks' borrowers denied having obtained loans from the closed banks, while others admitted having signed blank documents in consideration of commissions from ranging from P10,000 to P15,000 for supposed loans amounting to millions of pesos," the BSP said in a statement released over the weekend.

Legacy bank officials, employees and agents charged on Feb. 6 were Virgilio Dilidar (president of Rural Bank of Bonbonon), Marven Ong, Zenaida Cardolano (president of Rural Bank of San Jose), Teodoro Gempis, Jose Girly Cayanan and Boy Hilario.

William Escalante (president of Rural Bank of Isabel), Rosmarie Tanedo, Phoebe Baber, Jacqueline Aranzo, Jory Corpuz, Filomena Dukuyhangcol, Rebecca Corpuz, Evelyn Silva, Joy Michelle Navarez, Perlena Narvaez, Irene Jamilo and Jerry Hope.

Those charged on Jan. 5 were officers and employees of Rural Bank of Pantabaca, Rural Bank of San Jose, Rural Bank of Garlet, and Dynamic Bank in Calatagan, Batangas.

Espenilla's rap

Charged were Calixto Catchalano, Edwin Corpuz, Emilio C. Agcaoili, Mae Inclenero, Geronimo Sevilla, Danilo Conrad, Desiree Dimayuga, Shellane Angat, Roy Militar, Romanico Tabinio, Menandro Dantes, Jacqueline Acuesta, Haidee Manila, and Michelle Ligtas.

At the Senate hearing on pressed from last week, Espenilla was himself accused by De los Angeles of wooing a rural bank in Masbate.

Rural Bank of San Jacinto was incorporated by Espenilla's mother in 1968 when he was 20 years old, according to the BSP official.

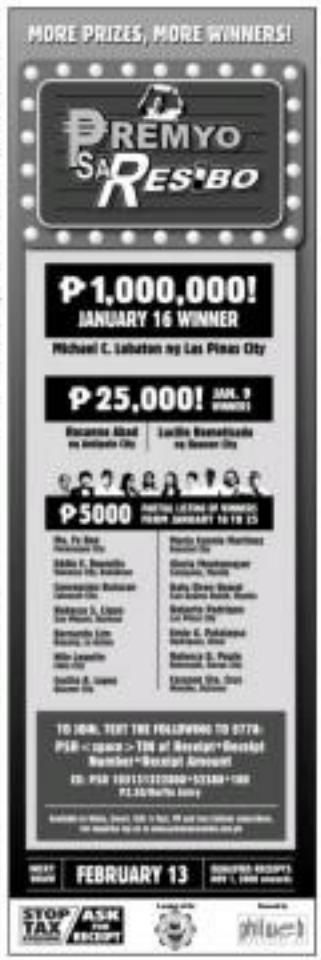
"Since its establishment up to the present, I never owned any share of stock in RB San Jacinto nor was I involved in its management. I absolutely have no dealings with the bank, either as a borrower or as investor. I have never been employed by RB San Jacinto," Espenilla said.

Update

BSP Governor Amando Tetangco is vessed by Espenilla.

Tetangco said Espenilla was being subjected to unfair allegations.

"I have known Deputy Governor Nestor Espenilla in the 27 years that he has been a career banker. In all these years, I have known him to be a person of integrity who applies his activities, professionalism, and dedication to serving the country well as a central banker," Tetangco said in a statement.



SMART

Buddy

Sa FLEXI-RATE ng SMART Buddy, you can enjoy long calls for as low as PISO per minute*.

'Di lang 'yan, may special rates pa para sa shorter calls.
Kaya you'll only be charged depende sa haba ng tawag mo!

Call Duration	FLEXI-Rate	Effective Rate/ minute
Up to 3 minutes	P10	P3.33
Up to 5 minutes	P15	P3
*Up to 20 minutes	P20	P1

FREE ONE-TIME REGISTRATION

Text **FLEXI** to **880**

To call, dial ***88 + 11-digit mobile number (ex. *8809181234567)**

Alam ng Smart Buddy ang gusto ko pagdating sa calls. Me na me talaga!

www.smart.com.ph

Aplus METRO
Editor Abelardo S. Ulandey

For inquiries on ATM, e-Banking and Remittance services, call our 24-hour customer assistance
860-3000
or 1-800-10-860-3000 (domestic toll-free for provincial areas only)
We're at your service anytime, everyday.
www.metrobank.com.ph
Metrobank
You're in good hands

Leviste's petition for bail blocked

State prosecutor calls former governor a flight risk

By Norman Bordadora

SENIOR STATE PROSECUTOR EMMANUEL VELASCO HAS ASKED the Court of Appeals to deny former Batangas Gov. Antonio Leviste's petition to be released on bail while the latter's appeal for the review of his conviction on homicide charges is pending before the court.

"Natural human tendency will dictate that he is guilty of killing Rafael de los Alas and that his abilities of self-defense has no leg to stand on, thereby with more reason that he should be considered a flight risk," Velasco said in his opposition to Leviste's bail application.

The former governor earlier applied for bail pending the resolution of his appeal, citing health reasons.

Last month, Leviste was moved from the Makati City Jail to the New Bilibid Prisons in Muntinlupa City upon the order of Judge Elmo Alameda of the Makati Regional Trial Court Branch 150.

"It bears to stress here that the alleged 'health problems' of the accused are the same allegations which he raised before the (Makati) Regional Trial Court when a warrant for his arrest was issued," Velasco said.

"Surprisingly, after he was granted temporary liberty said alleged health problems vacated into thin air," the prosecutor added.

According to Velasco, allowing Leviste to be released on bail would violate the equal protection clause of the Constitution.

"Rich and poor felons should be treated equally ... no emphasized in an old adage, those who have less in life must have more in law," he stressed.

"A convicted felon should not be allowed to make a mockery of the criminal justice system and at the same time ask for the indulgence of this Honorable Court," Velasco said.

On Jan. 14, Judge Alameda found Leviste guilty of homicide in the killing of his longtime aide, Rafael de los Alas on Jan. 12, 2007. Although Leviste claimed he killed the victim in self-defense, the judge said the four bullet wounds in De los Alas's head immobilized his assailant.

DID YOU KNOW

SARANGGANI Rep. Manuel Mamba (Ang City) declared to rumor from the world "ended" on 2012. The place used to be home to many of these dark lords.
Cyril Bonalos, Inquirer Research

QUBE CCTV Surveillance
Starts at Php 29,999.00
QUBE M1 Notebook
Starts at Php 15,999.00
www.buyqube.com / sales@buyqube.com
Order Now! call Qube Metro Mla & Alabang 410-7920 Qube Cebu (032) 412-4404 Qube Davao (082) 227-0943

Palace declares Feb. 13 a holiday in Parañaque City

By Allison W. Lopez

THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT HAS DECLARED Feb. 13 a special nonworking day in Parañaque City which will be marking its 113th cityhood anniversary.

Mayor Florencio Bernabe Jr. said Proclamation 1716 issued by Malacañang was aimed at "[giving] the people of Parañaque the full opportunity to celebrate the occasion with appropriate ceremonies."

"Our city has seen and experienced great strides in its growth and development for the benefit of our residents. With their continued support and cooperation, we hope to do more for them and the city to the years ahead," Bernabe said in a statement.

As a result of Malacañang's declaration, there will be no classes in all schools in Parañaque.

The city government has lined up several activities for the celebration, including a flag ceremony to be led by Bernabe at 7 a.m. on Feb. 12.

This will be followed by a thanksgiving Mass at the Parañaque City Hall to be celebrated by Msgr. Manny Gabieta, rector of St. Andrews Cathedral, Diocese of Parañaque.

Afterward, City Hall employees and their guests will be treated to a food festival and a cultural program.

Bernabe, meanwhile, encouraged residents to watch the parade of floats and a fire contest featuring Bienvenueva and Alcalde Bridge that will cap the celebration at 7 p.m.

On Feb. 11, the city government will recognize the top 10 corporate and five individual taxpayers at 6 p.m. in the Parañaque Hall of Fame Parañaque.

There are no activities scheduled on Feb. 13 to allow Parañaque residents to rest after the celebration, Bernabe said.

Man in trouble for burning dog

By Jeannette I. Andrade

A BARANGAY OFFICIAL in Manila faces charges for allegedly setting fire to a dog over the weekend.

Ramon Cada, 64, a councilor of Barangay 571 and a resident of Bulacan Street in Sampaloc, was arrested by operatives of the Manila Police District's Sampaloc police station 4 for violating City Ordinance 8101 or for showing cruelty to an animal.

SPO2 Leo Marquez, desk officer of the Sampaloc police station, said the incident happened at around 10 a.m. Saturday at the corner of Bulacan Street and Magsaysay Avenue in Sampaloc.

Marquez said that based on the complaint they received from one of Cada's neighbors, the barangay official

DEATH BEGINS IN THE COLON.
So Cleanse
and Control Your Weight
FLUSH out the TOXINS of the HOLIDAYS!
redjuice NOW!

Introducing! The all-new Honda BeAT
Be a Trendsetter... Be Automatic... Get into the Honda BeAT
2009 Mall Tour
Alloy Wheel Variant
Alloy Wheel Variant
EXCELLENT SAFETY FEATURES
COMBI Brake System*
Honda

PHILIPPINE LIPID AND ATHEROSCLEROSIS SOCIETY
PHILIPPINE SOCIETY OF HYPERTENSION
Joint 14th Annual Convention

February 11 – 13, 2009
Crowne Plaza Galleria Manila, Quezon City
Theme: "Bridging Basic Science and Clinical Practice in Atherosclerosis"

Confab bridges basic science and clinical practice in atherosclerosis

People dying or getting disabled in the prime of their lives are a relatively common occurrence. Doctors coming from various specialties are teaming up to lick the problem.

Atherosclerotic cardiovascular diseases and its risk factors like hypertension, diabetes, and dyslipidemia or cholesterol problems remain a formidable foe, according to Dr. Nelson Abelardo, president of the Philippine Lipid and Atherosclerosis Society (PLAS).

Together with the Philippine Society of Hypertension (PSH), and in collaboration with 24 other medical societies, the PLAS has organized their 14th joint annual convention on January 11-13 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel with the theme **"Bridging Basic Science and Clinical Practice in Atherosclerosis"**.

So many remarkable clinical trials and researches were completed and published in the last 12 months. It is very important for physicians attending to patients with heart diseases, hypertension, diabetes, dyslipidemia and other risk factors to gather once again in scientific sessions and discuss how application of the new knowledge from these clinical trials and other researches can benefit their patients.

The joint PLAS-PSH annual convention is a highly informative forum for enjoying new information and exchange of ideas among some of the country's top medical specialists.

Dr. Elizabeth Pachaco, chair of the scientific committee, reports that top international experts like Professors Yoshida Kam from the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center, Carlos Ostoal-Mercado from Washington University School of Medicine, and Christiana from the Harvard Medical School are coming here to share their expertise with local physicians.

Delivering the keynote speech during the opening ceremonies of the convention is Dr. Esperanza Cabral, current secretary of the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD). Dr. Cabral is also a past president of both the PSH and PLAS, and remains very supportive of all the two societies' activities.

Interested physicians and other allied healthcare professionals may call the secretariat at 811-7978 or text 0917-6233818.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Dr. Esperanza Icasan-Cabral
Secretary, Department of Social Welfare and Development
Past President, Philippine Society of Hypertension
Philippine Lipid and Atherosclerosis Society

PLENARY SPEAKERS

Prof. Yoshida S. Kam
Professor of Internal Medicine
University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center
Dallas, Texas, US
"Hypertension and Atherosclerosis" a.k. Twelve Forever for the 21st C

Prof. Carlos Benoit-Mizrachi
Associate Professor
Washington University School of Medicine
St. Louis, Missouri, US
"Infection in and Atherosclerosis"

Prof. Jim P. Kanda
Associate Professor of Medicine
Harvard Medical School
Boston, Massachusetts, US
"What Cardiovascular Prevention: New Guidelines, New Strategies"

LIST OF SPEAKERS

Dr. Herson D. Abelardo
Dr. Ma. Teresa B. Abola
Dr. Mark Yvan P. Amante
Dr. Benjamin S. Belmonte Jr.
Dr. Carlo Rene Bernal
Prof. Nina C. Canenberg
Dr. Ma. Amelia J. Cantos, FPCC
Dr. Mario O. Carreon
Dr. Josephine L. Cleto-Nazaro
Dr. Manuel M. Concepcion
Dr. Arnold L. Garcia
Dr. Ma. Lourdes B. Gotera
Dr. Charles C. Lopez
Dr. Eva Maria C. Cubangay-delaTorre
Dr. Fabian M. Dayrit, FPCC
Dr. Claudio P. dela Paz
Dr. Walfrido Ian dela Vega
Dr. Alejandro F. Dee
Dr. Romeo G. Domagsang
Dr. Jim P. Garcia
Dr. Ira Thelen C. Jap-Tan
Dr. Gabriel L. Jasul, Jr.
Dr. Cecilia A. Jimeno
Dr. Cielo P. Maliwanag
Dr. Jose Ma. V. Mandigo
Dr. Lester M. Mercado-Asis
Dr. Roberto C. Muyot
Dr. Cecilio D. Morales
Dr. Herminio U. Mendoza Jr.
Dr. Julian A. Chua-Chiong Guat
Dr. Dennis G. Natividad
Dr. Elizabeth T. Paz-Pacheco
Dr. Cesar A. Perez, Jr.
Dr. Felix Eduardo P. Punzalan
Dr. Herminia D. Ram
Dr. Eugene B. Reyes
Dr. Ma. Helga F. de Viana
Dr. Ruby G. Sy
Dr. Andrew C. Tanseco Jr.
Dr. Cecilia O. Tantay
Dr. Laura Trajano Asuncion
Dr. Milagros E. Tumacder
Dr. Nancy T. Yu

ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

PLAS - PSH
JOINT 14TH ANNUAL CONVENTION

Overall Chair
Dr. Nelson D. Abelardo
Dr. Rafael R. Castillo

Scientific Committee
Dr. Elizabeth T. Paz-Pacheco (Chair)
Dr. Cecilia O. Tantay (Co-Chair)
Dr. Lynn A. Gomez
Dr. Ma. Teresa B. Abola
Dr. Rosa Allyn G. Sy
Dr. Ira Thelen C. Jap-Tan
Dr. Alejandro C. Dayo

2009 PLAS-PFIZER Lipid Research Award Committee
Dr. Elizabeth Paz-Pacheco (Chair)
Dr. Ira Thelen Jap-Tan

2009 PSH-Hanpharma YDM Bukti Yik Committee
Dr. Vicente T. Ignacio Jr. (Chair)
Dr. Bernadette T. Mendoza

Industry Participation and Hotel Arrangements Committee
Dr. Sidney Yu Whiting
Dr. Ruby G. Sy

Audio Visuals and Physical Arrangements Committee
Dr. Rafael R. Castillo (Chair)
Dr. Evan C. San Buenaventura
Dr. Albert Hans P. Bautista

Registration Committee
Dr. Eugene Jose F. Ramos (Chair)
Dr. Alfred J. Alvin-Cabilao
Dr. Astrid E. Guevara
Theophanie Inc.

Awards Committee
Dr. Rafael R. Castillo (Chair)
Dr. Herson D. Abelardo
Dr. Ruby T. Go

Social Committee
Dr. Vicente A. Ignacio (Chair)
Dr. Jose B. Alcantara

Pre-Convention Activity (Lay Forum)
Dr. Rosa Allyn G. Sy (Chair)
Dr. Edwin C. Zuniega
Dr. Carmen M. Chiongson

Documentation and Publication Committee
Dr. Rafael R. Castillo (Chair)
Dr. Abdul T. Ong
Mr. Tony Saavedra

PLAS - PSH Secretariat
Ms. Rowena P. Ramos
Ms. Jeanette G. Lumbo
Mr. Noel C. Mallahana

PROGRAM-AT-A-GLANCE

Time (Date)	February 11 (Wednesday)	February 12 (Thursday)	February 13 (Friday)
7:00	REGISTRATION	REGISTRATION	REGISTRATION
8:00	OPENING CEREMONIES / OPENING OF EXHIBITS	PLENARY SESSION 2	PSH BUSINESS MEETING
9:00	PLENARY SESSION 1	CS 5 Bridging Science and Clinical Practice in Dyslipidemia Management	PLAS BUSINESS MEETING
10:00	CS 1 Bridging Science and Health Issues in Atherosclerosis	CS 6 Bridging Science and Clinical Practice in Hypertension Management	PLENARY SESSION 3
11:00	CS 2 Bridging Science and Clinical Practice in Diabetes Management		CS 10 Bridging Science and Clinical Practice in Dyslipidemia Management
12:00	LUNCH SATELLITE SYMPOSIUM	LUNCH SATELLITE SYMPOSIUM	LUNCH SATELLITE SYMPOSIUM
1:00			
2:00			
3:00			
4:00			
5:00			
6:00			
7:00	DINNER SATELLITE SYMPOSIUM		

LAY FORUM

OFFICERS & MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Nelson D. Abelardo, M.D.
President

Elizabeth T. Paz-Pacheco, M.D.
1st Vice President

Rowena R. Tanseco, M.D.
2nd Vice President

Alberto A. Antioco, M.D.
Secretary

Rosa Allyn G. Sy, M.D.
Treasurer

Eugenio Jose F. Ramos, M.D.
Director

Wilfrido I. Arcos-Bathang, M.D.
Director

Ira Thelen C. Jap-Tan, M.D.
Director

Ma. Teresa B. Abola, M.D.
Director

Rolando C. Tenchavez, M.D.
Director

Ruby T. Go, M.D.
Immediate Past President

OFFICERS & MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Rafael R. Castillo, M.D.
President

Abdul T. Ong, M.D.
Vice President

Lynn A. Gomez, M.D.
Secretary

Romeo G. Domagsang, M.D.
Treasurer

Lynn A. Gomez, M.D.
Trustee

Nicolas R. Tanseco Jr., M.D.
Trustee

Sidney S. Yu Whiting, M.D.
Trustee

Nelson D. Abelardo, M.D.
Immediate Past President

NOVARTIS
Novartis Health Care
Trusted Corporate Member

Pfizer
Pfizer Inc.
Trusted Corporate Member

Roche
Roche
Trusted Corporate Member

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

COOPERATING SOCIETIES / ORGANIZATIONS

Gertz Arena

MSD

For inquiries: Please call the SECRETARIAT Unit 309 Ironwood Plaza, Julia Vargas Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City
Tel. Nos. 633-76-70 / 687-7071 / 687-2847 Telefax 631-7370 email: philpsh@infinito.net / philsh@yahoo.com

2 suspected thieves killed in shootout with cops

By Nancy C. Carvajal

TWO MOTORCYCLE-RIDING men who stole a gangsta rap song off a cell center agent were shot dead yesterday by Quezon City policemen.

Senior Supt. Franklin Mateo Mabanag, head of the Quezon City Police District's Criminal Investigation And Detection Unit, said the men have yet to be identified.

He described them as between 30 and 35 years old, of medium build and with closely cropped hair.

One wore a dark blue T-shirt and a pair of short pants with the name "Bernard" imprinted on his back. The other was dressed in a polo shirt with long sleeves and a pair of brown checkered shorts. His body bore numerous tattoos, the police added.

Interviewed from the two men were two guns loaded with several bullets and a motorcycle with no license plates.

Based on a police report, Janet Cortes, 30, a call center agent, said she and her two companions were walking on Roosevelt Avenue, Barangay Pasong Putik, Quezon City, at around 12:15 a.m. when two men on board a motorcycle blocked their path, grabbed her bag and fled.

Cortes immediately reported the incident at a nearby police station which alerted all police units.

At 1:45 a.m., policemen on patrol spotted two men on board a motorcycle without license plates on Sen. Heroes Street in Barangay Bungad.

They tried to flag it down but the two men riding on the vehicle fired upon them, prompting them to shoot back.

Supt. Arnie Bulfagnes, head of the Masambong police station which conducted the operations, said Cortes later positively identified the two men as the ones who grabbed her bag.

"The station was brought to the crime scene and she identified the suspects and recovered all her stolen belongings," Bulfagnes said.

As to previous encounters which led to the death of suspected criminals, Mabanag defended the responding police officers' actions.

"It's self-defense, the soldiers were shooting at the suspects. We cannot just let these robbers shoot our men who are just doing their job," he said.

SUN-POWERED DRYER
Fish are spread out to dry on a net in front of houses built on stilts in Panabangan City. —

Man in trouble for burning dog

From page A16

poured gasoline over the dog, and threw an fire to the animal.

Cullo, however, told the police that the dog was already dead when he found it and that he was merely disposing of its body.

Despite this, he was taken to the police station where he remains under detention pending the filing of charges against him.

Student shot dead in front of barangay hall

FREE WATER
Residents of Bonanza Street corner Pedro Gil in Paco, Manila, take advantage of the free water coming from a leak in a water pipe in the area. Parts of Metro Manila, including Manila, being serviced by Maynilad Water Services were dry starting Saturday as the water company started work on a service improvement project. AFRA AYOSO

By Nancy C. Carvajal

A 22-YEAR-OLD COLLEGE student was shot dead by a still unidentified man in front of a barangay hall in Quezon City before dawn yesterday, a police report said.

Unit officer Inspector Irene and the victim, Jay-ar Laroya, who was with his sister, Michelle, had just come out of the Commonwealth barangay hall at around 1:30 a.m. when a man approached him and shot him.

Ruth Cruz said the incident was witnessed by barangay watchmen who were so taken by surprise that they failed to catch the gunman who escaped on board a tricycle.

Police said the victim, although wounded, tried to run away from his attacker.

The gunman, however, chased him and shot him repeatedly at close range.

The victim was rushed by his relatives to the East Avenue Medical Center where he was declared dead on arrival.

Police said the motive of the killing has yet to be established.

Investigation showed that the victim and his sister were on the barangay hall to settle his quarrel with Joud Lim who had filed a complaint against him.

After apologizing to Lim, the victim was about to go home when he was attacked.

METROBRIEFS

Bus bursts into flames; passengers safe

A PASIG-BOUND bus suffered a malfunction and then burst into flames shortly before noon yesterday in Manila. Fortunately, none of the 20 passengers on board the Laguna-bound Bilis Transit bus (WIR-736) was hurt. PO2 Ferdinand Lopez of the Manila Police District's Ermita police station said the incident happened at around 11:30 a.m. yesterday on Taft Avenue near the corner of Nakpil Street in front of the Philippine Women's University. Bus conductor Melanino Romo told the police that he and some of the passengers first noticed that the vehicle's air-conditioning system was not working. After a few minutes, Romo said they smelled something burning before they saw sparks at the back of the bus. Romo added that he and bus driver Edgar Pancho immediately told all the passengers to get off the vehicle. The fire was reported to the Manila Fire District by PMPI security guard Ernesto Macasaddu who said he saw the whole incident from his post. Firefighters immediately arrived at the scene and prevented the flames from further spreading throughout the vehicle. Lopez said since investigators were still determining the cause of the fire and the cost of damage to property. Jaime Laya / Andrade

Marikina opens new convention center

THE CITY government of Marikina will open today a convention center for trade shows, exhibits and workshops, officials said. Located beside the Marikina Hotel, the 1,000-sq.m convention center has a seating capacity of 1,000 and is ideal for industrial shows, exhibits, and other large gatherings like symposiums and workshops, Mayor Marides Fernando, in a statement, said the facility would complement the operations of the Marikina Hotel. "The construction of the Convention Center is part of our commitment there, along with a vision to maximizing the potentials of our city's assets," she said. She added that other facilities would soon be the location to provide additional attractions and to make the hotel and convention center more competitive with privately-owned establishments in the city. The opening, to be led by officials from the Marikina City Development Authority's planning, architectural design, and construction sections, will be held at 8:30 a.m. The new convention center will be the site of Fernando's State of the City Address on Feb. 17, during which the mayor is expected to talk about the city's recent accomplishments in infrastructure, health, and governance. BJ Pye

Police operatives to undergo antidrug seminar

By Marlon Ramos

TO ENSURE THE SUCCESS OF its intensified campaign against illegal drugs, the National Capital Region Police Office (NCRPO) has ordered its antidrug cartas agents to undergo a seminar on human rights and the laws and procedures covering antidrug operations.

"The seminar also aims to refine and improve the operational functions of the NCRPO in the conduct of anti-illegal drugs operations by focusing on the implementation of drug supply strategy and legal effective interviews," Director Leopoldo Bataoil, NCRPO chief, said in a statement.

Bataoil stressed that policemen assigned to antinarcotics units should understand "by heart" the standard operating procedures of the Philippine Drug Enforcement Authority.

After attending the seminars, he said NCRPO operatives would undergo a written exam.

"Those who will fail the exam will be removed from the antidrug units for further training," Bataoil warned.

"I want these provisions on searches and human rights and police operational procedures to be fully understood by every policeman assigned to antidrug operations work," he added.

METRO Citizen's call

0918-8985566

Prompt police action

THIS is in reference to an item titled "Sidewalks for pedestrians, not motorcycles" sent by Rolando Pastelo, 68, of Project 6, Quezon City, which came out in Metro Citizen's Call on Jan. 12. Please be informed that Supt. Leslie Castillo, chief of the Mobile Patrol Unit, personally verified the report and talked to Kennedy Bello, Edgar Hamoto and Poy Santos of Canon Joy Super Pizza, denied Lennon Manuel and Pizza Hut, respectively. They were reminded to observe proper parking of their motor vehicles and motorcycles and to stop using the sidewalks. We thank you and the concerned citizen and rest assured of our prompt action on matters of mutual concern.

SENIOR INSP. JOSELITO P. ADINUENA
Public Information Office chief, Quezon City Police District

Vagrants in Malate

THIS is probably the fourth time I am writing about the streets of Malate. Last November, about a month or so after writing to Citizen Call, my children were burglarized. I blame this on the vagrants who now use streets as sleeping quarters. At the corner of Quirino and M. H. del Pilar Street in Ermita, Whenever it rains, next to its outdoor area is a space where homeless people sleep. Just two nights ago, I saw two sisters chasing each other while shifting cartons. Are we supposed to accept that nothing can be done to get rid of these people in our neighborhood?

CAROL T., Malate, Manila

Reckless bus drivers

I'M A BUSINESS man of the concerned nationals who pass through Commonwealth Avenue every day. It's always the Sabeena buses that I worry are because the drivers act as if the whole avenue belongs to them. They don't observe road courtesy. They use their low-beam and high-beam indiscriminately. They change lanes at anytime without using signal lights, especially the ones with body number 14252. I asked this MMDA traffic enforcer Lot Palmiree Cardel Malinhal as an ordinary person like me can do about it. Their answer was that we were both helpless against them. They just told me to be careful on the road. They said only the LTS can take care of the problems and that I should title my complaint there. Shouldn't anything hazardous on the road be removed? I'm sure that I'm not the only one whose day is ruined whenever I see reckless bus drivers. I hope you can help us.

MARY T. SE Fairview

Fast and dangerous

CAMEC zip by the school in our area because of the lack of bumps on the street. The vehicles are not only lucky but also endanger students.

RALPH, 23, UPC Village Tandang Sora, Quezon City

CHRYSLER
ENGINEERED BEAUTIFULLY

For over 25 years,
12 million families can't go wrong.

The 2009 Chrysler Town & Country Limited Edition.
Yours for 20% down payment, 0% interest for 2 years w/ free insurance.
Luxury seating for 7+ 30 GB MyGIG® Multimedia Entertainment System for storing music, family photos and watching DVDs complete w/ rear LCD screens • UConnect® Bluetooth® Hands-free Telephone System • ParkView® Rear Back-up Camera • ParkSense® Rear Park Assist System • HID Headlamps • Second-row Power-down Windows • Power Sliding Doors & Liftgate w/ Obstruction Sensors • Industry-exclusive Swivel 'n Go passenger seats • Advanced front and side curtain airbags • Power-folding rear seat • 6-Star US Gov't Crash Test Rating

CHRYSLER MAKATI
CHRYSLER GREENHILLS
www.chrysler.com.ph

The WORLD

Editor Lorenzo B. Olivares

THE BIGGEST WOMEN NEGOSYO EVENT OF THE YEAR!

BABAE Yaman kang BAYAN!

NEGOSYO

Calling all women who want to start their entrepreneurial spirit!
Come join the biggest women event of the year:
"GO NEGOSYO: BABAE, YAMAN KA!"
Be inspired by the success stories of women who ventured into the world of business and improved their lives and those of the people around them.
Be among the first to hear from the women leaders in our government as they discuss how they plan to help the women micro, small and medium scale entrepreneurs.
Grab the chance to be inspired by some of the country's most respected women entrepreneurs as we launch our thirdmedia promo! Go Negosyo, Inq7.net/Negosyo and 91.9 Inquirer Stereo of Mondo Entrepreneurs.
Learn everything you need to know from veteran mentors in tips and advice on the concepts that women venture into!

MARCH 2, 2009 WORLD TRADE CENTER

All women's organizations (businesses, corporations, schools, and government agencies) are invited to join the caravan, perform or as exhibitors! Interested parties can call Ivin (Mobile) at 0915.805.54.19 or e-mail negosyo.women@yahoo.com

www.gonegosyo.net PCE Institute: 632-9328 gonegosyo@yahoo.com NCR FPO: 731-8169

WORLD BRIEFS

65 dead in Australia's wildfire 'hell'

SYDNEY—At least 65 people were killed and entire towns razed in one of the worst wildfire disasters in Australian history, sending thousands fleeing in panic across Prime Minister Kevin Rudd's crowded to "hell" on Sunday. The toll, already the highest in 28 years, looked set to rise further as exotic bird calls burned rainforests and police sift through more than 500 homes destroyed by the fires, some blamed on arsonists. "Hell is all the fury has visited the good people of Victoria in the last 24 hours. Many good people lie dead, many injured," Rudd told reporters, deploring. Army units to help 3,000 firefighters battling the flames.

AFP

Madagascar police shoot at protesters; 25 killed

ANTANANARIVO, Madagascar—At least 25 people were killed and 167 wounded when security forces fired on antigovernment protesters during an unprecedented rallies in Madagascar's capital, the national police said on Sunday. The country's president and his rival each held the title as responsible for the new escalation of political violence on this Indian Ocean island. Saturday's protests started as a peaceful appeal where opposition leader Andry Rajoelina regularly addresses supporters. Those bands of demonstrators then headed toward the presidential palace. Protests late last month by Rajoelina's supporters had demonstrated two riots and looting scenes that left dozens of people dead.

AP

Taliban say they killed Polish contractor

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan—A Polish engineer who was kidnapped by the Taliban last September was killed by his captors on Friday night after negotiations with the government for his release collapsed, a Taliban spokesperson said on Saturday. A spokesperson for the president of Pakistan, Asif Ali Zardari, said initial reports received by the government showed that the engineer, Piotr Stanczak, had been killed but the authorities are awaiting confirmation. In Poland, the prime minister, Donald Tusk, said he had received reports that Stanczak had been killed. Stanczak was one of several foreigners captured by the Taliban in recent months. He appeared in the first of the short videos posted online by Islamic militants in October since the beheading of Daniel Pearl, a Wall Street Journal correspondent, in January 2002.

NYT

Octuplet fertility doctor under investigation

LOS ANGELES—The Medical Board of California is investigating the fertility doctor who helped Nadya Suleman, the mother of octuplets, give birth to 14 boys with NATALIE anderson. The board did not name the doctor but one shocking to see it there was a "violation of the standard of care," board spokesperson Claudia Zahnd said on Friday. She did not elaborate. Suleman, 33, of Whittier, already had six children when she gave birth on Jan. 26 to octuplets. The births to an unemployed, divorced single mother prompted angry questions about how the state is to provide for her 14 children. But the backlash seems to have extended to another Suleman's doctor.

AP

US commanders favor slower Iraq withdrawal

WASHINGTON—US MILITARY PLANNERS HAVE drawn up three options to allow President Barack Obama to withdraw US combat troops from Iraq, with senior commanders favoring the slowest of the three, officials said on Saturday.

Both officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the issue, said they did not believe the options had been presented to Obama yet.

Obama made opposition to the Iraq war a central plank of his campaign platform.

He suggested all US combat troops would be out of the country in the first 16 months of his administration. But he has also pledged to listen to the advice of commanders.

Obama has said the war in Afghanistan should be the US military's priority and promised to add to the 36,000-strong US force there battling a growing insurgency.

The United States has around 144,000 troops in Iraq, where violence has declined dramatically in the past year and a half following several years of heavy bloodshed that brought the country to the brink of all-out civil war.

US commanders have repeatedly cautioned against withdrawing troops from Iraq too quickly, arguing that the country remains fragile.

A senior White House official played down any differences between the president and military commanders.

"There's been a very good back and forth in a very logical process that has allowed the president to hear from commanders and listen at all levels," the official said.

"That is that they are coming to a meeting of the minds on troops and on the need for a diplomatic and political strategy to end the war in Iraq and raise the tools on the troops and their families," the official added.

It was once all US forces doing could to combat troops leave Iraq. Obama has said a residual force would remain to train Iraqi security personnel, protect US diplomats and conduct counterterrorism missions.

That force is likely to consist of tens of thousands of troops, military officials and analysts say.

Under a pact between Washington and Baghdad sealed late last year as the Bush administration prepared to leave office, all US forces are to leave the country by the end of 2011.

US officials have raised the prospect, however, that US troops could remain longer with the agreement of Iraqi authorities to support the Iraqi security forces.

Reuters

Pope reaffirms life amid heated right-to-die case

ROME—POPE BENEDICT XVI said on Saturday that all human life must be protected, especially that of the weak and suffering, making a fresh emotive intervention in a right-to-die case that has convulsed Italy.

Groups of protesters—both for and against keeping Eluana Englaro alive—held demonstrations across the country on Saturday.

Englaro, 38, has been in a vegetative state for 17 years after a car crash. On Friday, after a decade-long court battle, her nutrition began to be reduced in preparation for removing her feeding tube, which her father has said was her wish.

Benedict didn't refer by name to Englaro in his message on Saturday for the annual World Day of the Sick. But the Pope said he wanted to reaffirm with style "the absolute and supreme dignity of every human being," even when "weak and wounded in the mystery of suffering."

In a bid to keep Englaro alive, Premier Silvio Berlusconi's center-right government passed an emergency decree on Friday saving that feeding and hydration cannot be suspended for patients who depend on it.

But in an unusual confrontation between Italy's top officials, President Giorgio Napolitano refused to sign the decree, saying it defied court rulings that allowed Englaro's feeding tubes to be removed.

The government now plans to bring a proposed bill to parliament, where Berlusconi's forces have a majority, to make the decree law. The chambers are expected to take up the issue on Monday, but it wasn't clear if the bill could be passed in time.

AP

Ford Tough is now more accessible than ever with an ALL-IN low downpayment offer on the tireless Ford Ranger and the strong and stylish Ford Everest. Whichever you choose, you are guaranteed of a vehicle that lives up to its built Ford Tough legacy on safety, quality, performance and fuel economy. When the going gets tough, you need a vehicle that is tougher than tough. Call 889-FORD (3673) for more details.

Ford
Make Every Day Exciting

WHAT'S INSIDE
NJ Nets pummel weary Nuggets /A31

SPORTS
Editor Teddyboy S. Molmisa • Assistant Editor Francis T.J. Ochoa

Juvic ties for 3rd in Asian Tour start /A32

Texters send Finals to 7th game

By Marcus R. Cuadillo

LITERALLY—AND COACH Chot Reyes knows this—Talk 'N Text got half of the job done by winning last night.

"We came into this game prepared to play for 48 minutes," Reyes said as other stars like Kerby Raymundo literally blew a 3-9-point third-quarter lead before banging on his s'-50-2% shoot more thanks that set up a Game 7 for the MFC-PBA Philippine Cup.

"The first half (last night's game) is over," he added after praising big shots from Ali Peek and Mac Cardona in a solid and steady finish role, respectively the scant biggest crowd in the Araneta Coliseum.

"We now have to figure out how to come out strong in the last 48 minutes."

Cardona scored 13 of his 15 points in the first half and Peek was big at the clutch, hitting three key points inside the final 52 seconds as the Tropang Texters avoided the fate of seven series in 3-3 and stayed alive for the franchise's second title.

The rubber match is scheduled Wednesday at-or the Big Dome in Cubao.

"We challenged Ali (Peek) before the game that (Jimmy) Thou (of Alaska) was looking for behind," Reyes explained. "We asked him to accept the 'Thou challenge. Now, let's see if he's got one more game-like-this in his body."

Peek finished with 17 points and 14 rebounds after missing just one field goal the entire night. He had 10 of his total in the first half when the Texters seized control.

Talk 'N Text showed a lot of poise in the face of a scrappy Alaska finish, as the Aces nearly wiped out a 10-79 third-quarter deficit by unveiling to realize four points breathing into the Rain or Shine team, 87-83, after an A. Ilmaze basket.

Sonny Alapag was big in the third, engineering the Talk 'N Text breakaway with eight straight points inside a 17-7 run which turned a 64-52 lead into a 79-59 advantage. The 5-foot-8 guard teamed up with 21 points, five rebounds and six assists.

Willie Miller went on to lead the Aces with 22 touches and seven points, with Jon Dewaze shooting 16.

"Ali (Peek) is very capable of coming up with big games," coach Tim Cone said.

The Alaska coach, though, sounded very upset and turned a scathing on Cardona, saying that he

LOOK SHARP WITH PINEDAHAIR
BEFORE AFTER
CALL FOR A PRIVATE CONSULTATION WITH DR. PINEDA
MAKATI (02) 813-0691
DAVAO (082) 221-2682
www.pinedahair.com

Access your e-mail with the hottest Nokia phone from Sun.
Nokia 2680
• Enhanced internet experience with e-mail
• FM radio & recording
• MMP, Bluetooth, GPRS
• VGA camera & video
• FREE at Plan ₱350*
• 24/7 Call & Text Unlimited**
• Plus 250 texts to other networks
Also available at Group Plan 999*
Hurry to The Sun Shops now!
* 30-month holding period.
** Local Sun-to-Sun calls & texts only
NOKIA
Hotline: 385-8080 • www.suncellular.com.ph
sun CELLULAR

SuperFerry
TODO TODO SAIL SALE
Ang umuwi sa mahal mo, 'di mahal!
Tuloy ang isang lovingl Uwi na sa mahal mo.
₱588** Manila to Palawan or Visayas
₱888** Manila to Mindanao
TRIPID
₱750** Manila to Visayas
₱1150** Manila to Mindanao

Fuel up now at select Petron stations in Metro Manila.
PETRON
CLO PREMIUM
Green Blend

Texters send Finals to do-or-die match

MBC Cardona of Talk 'N Text drives past Alaska's Sonny Thoss (left) and Jeff Chandler in their night's game at the Araneta Coliseum.

Average skill

said coach Jun Magsanoc as send Cardona to the floor if the Talk 'N Text swingman continues to sweat and rush out his passes.

"The next time he passes our play-ers, he is going to hit his head on the floor," Conic said. "He's done it four times in this series and he has only been warned once. That stays (fight)."

My players are not going to back down," said Conic, referring to Lee night where Cardona hit a floor with, was kicked by Thoss, and jumped up and down while screaming at Jawads.

"When the referees get more attention, or it's going to be ugly one day."

The rivals the fourth-straight time the champ-ionship will be won in a Game 7," said Alaska playing in the first of three series, hoping this same Talk 'N Text from chips to do-or-pose against Power Cig on 2007.

The Texters, who lost Game 5, 93-93, after Miller drained a triple with 0.7 seconds left Friday night, won in first-round of the first three games, closing out the half with a 52-45 lead before blasting this to 83-52 at the halfway point of the third.

Magsaysay and their attacks had 10 points each after the first two quarters, with Asi-ong hitting 3-of-3 three-point attempts and Dela Rosa making just one of five attempts from the field while making two free throws.

Tony Dela Cruz, who along with Asi-ong Thoss has been the offensive arsenals for Alaska in this series, hit six of his first eight attempts and finished 7/5-20/8/8 at the end of the second period.

In the preceding exhibition match, a Chandler Clark-contributed Rain or Shine crew played streaks at the clutch to outshoot and outscore Air 21 Attorney core the Smart Gilas All-Star squad.

The Elasto Painters showed superior shot over the Mandaluyong who Wednesday last week battled Burger King to a 95 all tie.

The scores

First Game

TALK 'N TEXT (93) – Clark 25, Ross 14, Mercado 13, Ong 9, Cardona 8, Hugnatan 6, Espinosa 5, Castro 5, Sangalang 5, Asi-ong 3, Dela Cruz 3, Ilagan 2, Salva 2, Ayaay 0.

SMART GILAS ALL-STARS (83) – Santos 15, Urbiztondo 13, Fernandez 10, Cruz 10, Jose 8, Custodio 5, Barroca 5, Mallillin 5, Magbitang 3, Tiu 2.

Quarterscores: 25-15, 50-45, 76-65, 93-83

Second Game

RAIN OR SHINE (88) – Cardona 19, Abueva 15, Yap 13, Belga 8, Wong 8, Hontiveros 8, Ildefonso 6, Caguioa 4, Gallego 3, Ahmad 1, Dela Cruz 0, Cruz 0.

AIR 21 (84) – Wilson 20, Ilagan 17, Nocum 15, Pinat 13, Sumalpong 8, Reyes 6, Mercado 4, Cabagnot 1, Mendoza 1, Sanchez 0.

Quarterscores: 20-18, 32-45, 59-61, 88-84

RP football men's coach Cutillas quits

By Cristoff B. Tejon

IT LOOKS LIKE THE RESIGNATION OF THE women's national head coach isn't an isolated case as the Philippine football federation.

Jose Cutillas, the PFF national director, has also quit his post due to his "total lost of confidence" in the leadership of Jose Mari Martinez.

This developed as Martinez declared all the committee chairmanships in the PFF vacant, except for the finance committee, whose chairman Richard Seidgh had recommended the sacking of women's head coach Emmanuel Sumagaysay.

The ouster of Sumagaysay prompted the resignation of the women's head coach last week.

It is strongly rumored that Cutillas could be the last to resign for the same reason he accused of supporting him and other committee heads in making decisions in the PFF.

He were ignored on the point that people outside the PFF were supporting Sumatra at the press conference removing people from their positions with only your approval," said Cutillas, who coached the team to the 2008 Aseau Championship qualifiers for two.

Cutillas revealed that the PFF totally came to close to not having a team for the Aseau qualifiers after "coaches and players refused to go to the training camp because they claimed they could not trust their president" to give them allowances.

The last straw, Cutillas said, was Martinez's refusal to act on the support extended by the EF women's team manager Emie Marcos in the affairs of the Under-19 and Under-16 teams.

"I have ... always been guided in the Ethics and Fair Play of the game," Cutillas said. "Since these are things I could want to be important in even to-day's business, I feel I can no longer in good conscience go from attempt to uphold football in the country."

Full steam ahead for rampant Batang Pier

By Jaroslaw N. Poyo

JAMMOR CENTRE SOFT TO AVOID the loss of scoring title presentations in order to a historic sixth straight championship.

"We want to finish it on Tuesday so we don't want to have any more problems," said Batang Pier coach Jorge Galent after Jasmine Gomez took a 3-1 lead in the list of the title scores with Hispanics in the PU Mens Gymnasium Day.

The Batang Pier aim to wrap it up against the Magnolia Hotpacks in Game 4 tomorrow.

Whether Yeaks or Shine, Sing Tanduay and Red Bull...there teams that caused some to the PBA the past decade...all failed to capture the crown in their farewell series in the league.

Hadrian Gomez recently decided so as not to scare name after the Finals as team officials announced their major promotions with Burger King, which will replace the 23 as their PBA.

Normally, we are already proud of what we have achieved the past three years in the league," said team owner Mike Romero. "But if we win again, then that is a big bonus for us."

SEE TROOPERS: Rodney, Jai Joel
2 pm — Barbon Center vs Magnolia Hotpacks

Batangas, who will serve as Burger King's alternate gateway in the PBA Board, said Hadrian Center will change its name to 52 Builders once conference.

Galent and team executives noted that all will also leave to Burger King as same to coach Yeng Guiao, while key players like Rico Maierhofer will join the PBA rookie draft.

"Win or lose, we want to preserve the legacy of Hadrian Center in the league," said Romero, whose Batang Pier made its straight titles already inspired the first consecutive sides set by Sing Tanduay.

"Air conditioner give them any space for sling somebody," said Galent. "Magnolia is a very dangerous team. They have veteran players who set me to."

The Batang Pier entered within a win of the crown as Hadrian day after with 73 coming up of the Wizards in Game 3.

Asad Abdulla, the team's top scorer with 12.5 points a game, also knocked the Batang Pier in their 86-71 Game 1 victory before the Wizards leveled the series with an 84-80 escape in Game 2.

"He want to set this in the game, because you never know," said Galent. "We'll be ready for Magnolia. We have been training (6.7 points on a 44 percent shooting) by, while holding the Wizards to just 75.0 points.

Filipinos seek moto overall crown again

THE PHILIPPINES WILL TRY TO DEFEND its division and regain the overall title it has won five times ago as top local riders gear up for the 2009 Motocross season. Jude Pierre Pitargue from national Motocross Grand Prix set PHL 25 Wheels 1 at the Sta. Monica Hill last weekend.

The country has topped the overall championship titles, the race's inaugural year.

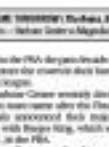
Thailand's dominance of bagged wins back-to-back in 2006 and 2007 while Dido Mahyuddin of Indonesia clinched the series last year.

Riders of the "new formats" has motors will face stiff competition from newly inspected Mongolia, Malaysia and Thailand. The 2008 Overall Asian Motocross Rider is defending Mahyuddin.

"We're very happy with how the other countries have improved and that elevated the quality of competitions in the series," said PSM GMR vice president Stephen "Stacky" Cuneglo.

ICTSI, Cangolf aces renew fierce rivalry

BAYSON



FERNANDO

HOSTED UP THE national pool from the ICTSI squad and the host club drag it out for top honors in the WWWPlayers Golf International Amateur Golf Championships beginning tomorrow at the Canlubang golf complex in Laguna.

Defending champion Nathan Bayson heads the ICTSI squad that includes national team Emilio Santos, former PP amateur winner Anthony Fernando and Antonio Arnedo.

Mark Fernando and former national team swimmer Jamie Delos Santos spearhead Manila Golf Club's bid to defend the Canlubang title after setting a record for the WWWPlayers

Hernandez top jockey; Ibarra, Go Army best horses

By Ronnie S. Asuncion

FOR EMERGING ON TOP IN BOTH THE ratings helps and stakeplaces rides, Jonathan Hernandez made a powerful replay of his first two years ago and was voted 2008's best jockey by the Philippine Sportscaster Association (PSA).

Already the winner of the Jockey of the Year award in 2006, Hernandez joins the distinguished list of triple awardees to be honored by the media group during the San Miguel Corp. PSA Awards Night on Feb. 20 at the Manila Hotel Ballroom.

It's a deed that for the most of the last [illegible] with Boots and Go Army splitting the honors.

In finishing the first nine 4-cube PSA history that two horses will share the award. Boots and Go Army beat other contenders like Godsfolly Ink, Emotions, Royal Spicy and Shining Hero.

"Because of what they've done on the track, it's only fitting that the sportswriters honor co-jocks Hernandez, Boots and Go Army for their outstanding sportsmanship," said PSA president Alberto Cardenas Jr. Tolosa.

HERNANDEZ

A product of the Jockeys' Academy under Dioceo Sudlong, the 21-year-old Hernandez amassed 393,046,124 in money winnings both second 187 winners in 603 rides in three local seasons (P36,350,467) and more than winner was Ednina (P32,594,787).

Ganz and Tolosa were the same jockeys Hernandez has in the 2008 plum.

Go Army owners Dr. Constantino Benitez Jr. Espinosa, were saddleboard as a two-year-old. He raked 13 consecutive races, including together Juvenile grand championship, to his 46 with PhP78,172,116 money winnings.

His is in stadium four-year-old Ibarra topped two of the richest races last year—the 39th Presidential Gold Cup and the Ambassador Cmdng Cojuangco Cup—and seven times Hong Kong Tim Mapes has his stable done to P3 million rupees.

Hernandez, Boots and Go Army are among the major awardees to be honored by sponsorers in simple rites sponsored by Pagcor and backed by the Hills' Foundation, Philippine Racing Commission (PRC), PCSC Corp., Manny's Aseel, PBA, PBL, NERAS, Smart, SM Foodcourt, Gatchey, Alaska, Sta. Lucia, Rain or Shine, Erac Rhino, Hapkon Cobras, Liga Filipinas, Rhino-Granby Secretary Leo Ambrosio, Phoenix, Gamex and Amateur motorboat and Mighty Sports Association.

Hosting hero Manny Pacquiao heads the honorees as inductee of the Hall, a fitting reward for making more fights as 2008, capped by an eighth-round demolition of Oscar Dela Hoya last last December.

The other major awardees are golfers Jennifer Rosales, Dorothy Delasin and rookie Dax, women's NBA hitting, pro-basket Lady Kelly Williams and three-point-shooter Wesley So.

Hopefuls need to move after All-Star recess

ONE GAME AT A TIME

Ser Sarmenta

IT'S TIME TO RE-visit the NBA and see how the teams are aligned a few days before the All-Star game in Phoenix.

The stars rested into the two teams and the participants in the side events will get to break while the rest of the league nurses injuries or goes back home to catch up on home or family life.

The important concern for the coaches who will not be involved in the All-Star hoopla is plotting how to maintain a stable playoff position or make a serious charge in the remaining games.

Those trying to catch up have to press the intensity button immediately after the break because it is no more wrestling and frustrating trying to make the playoffs in the last week of the regular season. They often, one's fire could be to another team's hands without actually facing them in the face.

Two months ago, we said that we would check on the frontrunners and hopefuls in survey how the playoffs would look if they were held today.

* * *

As of Tuesday, Feb. 8, the Cleveland Cavaliers have replaced Boston as the top East team with a 39-9 slate, just slightly lower than the LA Lakers, who are at 40-9, in the overall league picture. At number one, LeBron James and company would face the eighth-placed New Jersey Nets (24-27).

The Cavaliers, who recently lost to the Lakers in overtime at home, are at second spot with a 41-10 card and would duel current number seven Philadelphia (25-24). A Gabriel-Cavs Eastern conference final is very possible with the way that two have made runs in the season. Lebron can be a motivational tool to make that happen: the Cavs want to get back in the NBA Finals while the Cebs want to defend their crown.

Orlando (37-12) is third and gets Miami (28-23) while the fourth best record belongs to Atlanta (28-21) and would go against Detroit (27-21).

The East hopefuls are Milwaukee (24-19) and Chicago (22-19). To catch up with the Sixty or 76ers, they need sustained runs in the remaining thirty or less games and hope that three are major breakdowners by the current leaders.

* * *

In the West, the Lakers are growing more confident with the triangle offense and lead the parade. They would play Utah (29-22) which is building up to the last playoff spot for now. The Lakers are below 40-point team and they allow him to decide how the offense flows. When he gets jammed, the rest of the team gets the ball and do good things for LA.

In second spot, San Antonio (33-13) would play Dallas (30-20). Denver is at third and would meet Houston (31-20) while rounding up the West would be a New Orleans (29-18)-Portland (30-19) first round battle between the fourth and fifth places.

Phoenix (27-21) is the only real hopeful of the West because the remainder of the field is not playing as the same level as the contenders so far.

So enjoy the drinks, spices and stops as well as the rare lineup combinations of the All-Star week. Then, let's brace ourselves for an all-out rush for positions and spots in the remainder of the season.

NJ Nets pummel weary Nuggets

NEWARK, NEW JERSEY—THE NEW JERSEY Nets handed the Denver Nuggets their worst loss of the season, crushing the Northwest Division leaders 114-70 on Saturday.

Nets guard Devin Harris scored 20 points to lead six Nets in double figures as New Jersey, the third place team in the Atlantic Division, won its fourth consecutive game.

"We played well all the way around," Harris said. "Defensively, we did a great job. We're not just an old scorer job, we go out in transition, which was something that we had been struggling [with]."

Brook Lopez added 15 points and nine rebounds, Bryce Anderson had 13 points and 11 rebounds and Kenny Thomas scored 14 points.

Teammates Vince Carter and Terrence Darnell also were in double figures. Carter had 13 points and Darnell 11.

Carmelo Anthony, who scored 13 points, was the only Denver player in double figures.

New Jersey led by five points after the first quarter, then ripped open the game with a 35-point second quarter for a 20-point lead. The margin grew to 37 points in the third period.

"Sometimes you've just got to run 'em down," Nuggets coach George Karl said reporters. "Tonight we were two steps too slow."

"Offensively we never does defensively we never does.

Nationals, battle points, all that we were slow on. This is the first time all year we haven't had enough energy to fight back."

Nuggets guard Anthony Carter blamed a lack of sleep for the team's sluggishness.

"We didn't get to bed until 5 a.m. and got up for breakfast at 11 a.m. and guys just didn't have it tonight," Carter told reporters. "The New Jersey couple days rest and they jumped on us quick."

In Dallas, Dirk Nowitzki scored 44 points including 14-of-16 free throws and the last two of seven the win, as the Mavericks edged the Chicago Bulls, 121-120.

Nowitzki hit three straight jumpers on Dallas' first three possessions of the overtime for a 131-99 lead, and the Mavericks went on to win for the fifth time in six games despite the loss of two-and-leading scorer Jason Terry to injured injury.

Chicago got within 113-111 with 3.8 seconds left but Nowitzki hit a pair of free throws with 2.9 seconds left to seal the game. Nowitzki fell two points short of his season high.

In Milwaukee, Allen Iverson and Richard Hamilton combined for 15 of Detroit's 17 points in overtime as the Pistons rallied past Milwaukee for a 126-121 overtime win.

In Philadelphia, the 76ers made visible light of the absence of Elton Brand, clobbering the Miami Heat, 94-84.

In Houston, the Rockets rallied from a 15-point deficit in the first half to crush the Minnesota Timberwolves, 101-90.

In Memphis, Tennessee, the Grizzlies hung on to down Toronto, 78-70, handing the Raptors their ninth straight game. Reuters, AP

NEW JERSEY guard Devin Harris goes up a shot against Denver counterpart Anthony Carter. AFP

Darchinyan, ex-Donaire victim, KOs Arce

PIC DARCHINYAN (right) literally makes Jorge Arce bow in submission.

ANAHEIM, California—AUSTRALIAN-based Acehnese Vic Darchinyan retained his undisputed super flyweight title with an 11th-round technical knockout of Mexico's Jorge Arce on Saturday.

Darchinyan constantly landed solid punches but Arce was only refused to go down, but landed a left to the jaw that forced his corner to throw in the towel.

Arce's fans were stunned with blood and his knees were buckling as he took stem on the ropes in the closing seconds of the 11th round. The ring physician examined the pugilistic ruler with an eye and determined he should not come out for the 12th.

"I'm surprised me I didn't expect him to fight like he did," said Darchinyan.

Darchinyan retained his WBA, WBC and IBF belts with the victory.

Darchinyan only has to 2-11-1 record against whom he was knocked out by Filipino Nonito Donaire. It was Darchinyan's second defense of his IBF title. AP

Galaxy rejects Milan's Beckham transfer offer

LOS ANGELES—THE LOS ANGELES Galaxy rejected AC Milan's initial offer for David Beckham and expects the Italian club to come back with a much higher bid, or he will be back in LA next month.

Tim Leiweke, chief executive of the company that owns the Galaxy, said the Los Angeles Times on Friday he would not consider an unofficial loan of the 33-year-old England international as Milan has he was willing to negotiate a purchase deal.

"Clearly if Berlusconi is a position where he wants to finish the season in Milan, and Milan is more comfortable the Galaxy as that we can make no damages in any time or in any form, then we'll take a look at it," said Leiweke.

"But our [sic] we made it very clear to them that we expect David back here March 5," he continued. "They agree and understand we own the contract. They understand the only way we like that is it solves this is all said and done, the Galaxy breathe."

AC Milan vice president Adriano Galliani said May Italia on Saturday that the two sides were far apart on terms, "I will not to lose our Beckham's contract, but will be willing to paying Bobbie Gallusticia Leiweke would talk numbers.

"There's a long distance between what we've offered and what they want," Galliani said. "Therefore we need to talk. So now we are a long way off, but there is a still a month to go."

Beckham is on a three-month loan to Milan until March 5. AP

Angping: Medal potential key for PSC funding

By Jane Meyers

KNOW ME WHAT YOU'VE GOT AND I'll show you the money.

Newly installed Philippine Sports Commission chief Harry Angping will follow this tack in funding the training of athletes recommended by national sports associations for the Southeast Asian Games in Laos in December.

"Let's be realistic. Funding will depend on the quality of athletes and potential medal winners," said Angping.

The PSC has earmarked P350 million for the country's participation in the SEA Games, to be held in the capital city of Vientiane. Sec. Philippine Olympic Committee officials say the budget might not be enough.

"We will have a cut anyway," said Angping, a Bataan Manila congressman. "If the P350 million is not enough as the end of the day, I will raise the money."

Angping pointed out that the performance of the athletes prior to the games would be a gauge of how much additional funding the country's participation needs.

"I want to get back what I've invested," he said. "In this case, the amount of investment will be the medals that the athletes will bring home."

POC deputy secretary general Mark Joseph, however, thinks otherwise.

The swimming chief said the POC would be canvassing the NSAs to draw up their respective funding requirements and will then classify the list for what investment is worth.

The POC is also prepping up for the Asian Martial Arts Games (April 23 to May 1) in Thailand, the Asian Youth Games (June 28 to July 7) in Singapore, and the Asian Indoor Games (Dec. 2-12) in Vietnam.

Angping expects to draw budget for the SEA Games, the consensus among NSAs to date the target should draw some the budgets and not the other way around, said Angping.

The POC has locally projected winning 200 to 220 gold medals in the SEA Games, which Angping thinks is "too optimistic."

FVR a winner, finally; Cailao-Jimenez takes it

ANTONIO Cailao (fourth from left) and Dino Jimenez display their trophy as club officials Cesky Cuevillas, Vic Guerrero, Joel Bodegon and Rudy Garibaldo (from left) and Ed Chua, president of the sponsoring Pilipinas Shell, look on.

LIKE TO SETTING DIMENSIONAL BALLS AND mauling trophies as winners in the Mango Tee Series President Fidel Ramos found himself in an unfamiliar situation Saturday night.

He was the winning throw who accepted a trophy for a change.

The runner-up trophy FVR was with guest partner Pilchi Garcia in Class D was handed in his long years of participation in the Mango Tee, the family golf tournament of Cesky Cuevillas, which is sponsored by Pilipinas Shell and Smart Communications.

Posting rounds of 72 and 66 for a 138 total, FVR and Garcia, seven-time winners of Ayayama Golf's biennial Tournament of Club Champions, lost to Cailao and Jimenez, who posted 68 and 70 for 138 and Wilfredo Lim (73-74—147) in the silver anniversary edition of the tournament.

The big-trophy champions were Antonio Cailao and Dino Jimenez, who took the overall team title and top Chevrolin and Henry Bagay, who returned the lowest gross score.

Cailao and Jimenez's 137 total, completed on Thursday, held up as the winning score as the rains drenched the last two rounds of play from Friday.

Also benefiting from the change in playing conditions were Rudy Catacutan and son Robbie and Simon Siregar de Leon and Migo Garcia who came on the top spots in Class B and Class C, respectively.

Manny Briones and Yuri Alcantara prevailed in Class A, beating Eleuterio Villareal-Ernesto Simeon for the ocean-side's deck 73-78 (152).

Low gross champions were Bobby Pedro-Mari Ann Ramos (Class A), Jesse Fernando-Grace Chua (Class B), Frank Velarde-Mary Reyes (Class C) and Jose Antonio Mapa-Mike Magno (Class C).

Juvic ties for 3rd in Asian Tour start

PAGUNSAN Seong Kwan

BANGKOK—JUVIC PAGUNSAN SUSTENES his weekend charge with a three-birdie par-ish Sunday and finished in a four-way tie for third place in the season-opening Asian Tour Qualifying Series.

The 30-year-old Pagunsan, who moved into contention with a 66 in the third round, wound up with a 13-under 271 total—only three strokes behind winners James Kamte of South Africa—and picked up $13,890.

The rarest outraging shotmaker from Sandal, carded 72 at and third behind competitors Juggie Qiu (#68) and Arjunal Mukadanis (#78) in last year's Order of Merit, was tied with Australians Marcus Both (#6) and Lloin Buck (71) and Thai Prom Meesawan (#6).

Kamte, an Asian Tour rookie, won with a final-round 66 for 268 with third-round leader Yosuji Hiramitsu of Japan settling for second with a 71 (270), just a shot ahead of the four-way tie for third.

Filipino No. 1 Frenkie Milloza shared with a 70 for 278 and salvaged $2,060 with his tie for 20th place. Qui, who faltered with a 75 in the third round, rallied with a 66 for 281 and settled for $1,240.

"It was the first tournament in a while for the Asian Tour is really a dynamic event tour," said Kamte, who also took home the winner's purse of $97,200. "I'm always worried that so hopefully that is one going to be my last one."

Asian Tour Notes

Get The Best Inside Your Car!
DASHIELD
SHARK
CAR ACCESSORIES
414-6647
372-3640
372-2464
www.sharkphil.com

MILO MARATHON KICKOFF

Sabal, Delos Santos share limelight

By Cedelff Tapas

SUBIC FREEPORT—SEASONED RUNNER Constantino Sabal took the first step to retaining the National title Marathon crown he won two years ago by ruling the Subic leg yesterday inside the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority.

In one of the two races that opened the running season, Sabal dominated the 21k race, clocking 1 hour and 9.43 seconds to finish more than a minute ahead of Bernardo Dasamito Jr. (1:10.47) and Subic-based Jonah Abram standout Gerardo Corpuna (1:11.33).

In a simultaneous race held in Olongapo City, Unser debut Simeon of Zambonga City stole the thunder from the male ranks, finishing tenth overall on route to a masterful victory in the women's division.

Delos Santos clocked in at 1:30.29, finishing

SUBIC leg winner Constantino Sabal (third from left) is flanked by runner-up Bernardo Dasamito (second from left) and James Corpuna. With them are Mila Pil and sports executives Andrew Hori and Lester Castillo and local organizer Rolen Paulino.

ahead of half of the men's top 10 led by winner-mud Lampara of Digger City who timed 1:21:00.

Sharing the limelight with Sabal, in a race where a group of foreign standouts made a strong impression, was Jeremiah standout Bella Bayles, who ruled the women's division in 1:10.

Bayles finished ahead of another South African standout, Julie Cadman, who clocked 1:20:13. Angela Hands settled for third in 1:20:14, followed by Monica Torres in 1:27:26.

Delos Santos, the 23-year-old outfielder-runner of the Universidad de Zambonga who topped last year's Giggoro de Oro leg, was the women's national finals qualifying time of 1:26.

Sweeping for second behind Delos Santos was Shirlene Hands (1:29:06), followed by Ella Pelaez-Serrano (1:33:07).

Lampara was trailed by 16-year-old Cipriano Aldo Tejas (1:1:1:14) and Mohammad Shawali Hanapil (1:1:1:20).

The winners in each division won P 10,000.

The 10K race by Bayless in Subic beat Nathaniel Corpus, who topped the men's 20K in 46:30, and Gomez Pleiter, the women's 10K champion (1:45:36).

The 10K race winner in Olongapo were Marco Jamos (40:30) in the men's division and Cristobel Carlow (1:1:11) in the distaff side.

Aiding the 5K race was Joey Aldo Sears (18:11) in the men's category and Abi Carlos (25:04) in the women's division.

The 5K race for 7 to 12 years old was topped by Jerome Sindro and Angie Alfonso.

About 6,000 runners participated in the Subic leg, which was attended by Senate chief finance office Jesus Pearce, Mila Pil and sports executive Andrew Hori and local exec organizer Rolen Paulino.

Another 6,000 people joined the Olongapo race, which was graced by Gov Amelia Vadeyra.

Simultaneous Milo provincial races are also scheduled on Sunday in Baguio City and Batangas City. —With a report from Giorgio Lazaro

CARRYBOY
The Global Leader in Auto Accessories
2nd Generation
Pick-up Bed Covers
GSR
SM
SRX
CARRYBOY PHILIPPINES INC.
740-0525 or 30

RP hobie race sails off to Boracay

TEAMS FROM THE PHILIPPINES HEAD THE rough out in the nine-nation Shimano and Shoreline 13th Philippine Hobie Challenge which sails off today off Leiya Beach in San Juan, Batangas.

Australia, United States, United Kingdom, Switzerland, Portugal, Hong Kong, Italy and New Zealand are also making part in the 200-mile, five-day race which ends off Boracay Island on Wednesday then.

The regatta kicks off with the La Lua Save which starts in San Juan and ends off Kuraan Resort in Tanay, Montalegre. The Spa Zambler Personal Trainer Race gets going tomorrow with the field heading for Bonbonon Beach in Romblon.

On the third day the fleet tackles the 66-km Amerolasia Race and the finale Seahorse Series, before sailing for Tablas Island on the fourth day on the Lifeline Rescue Race.

14th PHILIPPINE INTERNATIONAL
hotair
BALLOON FIESTA
WEEKEND OF EVERYTHING THAT FLIES!
FEBRUARY
12-15
2009
CLARK FREEPORT ZONE
www.philballoonfest.net
For Inquiries: 0929-3149191
SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES
THURSDAY
Feb. 12
FRIDAY
Feb. 13
SATURDAY
Feb. 14
SUNDAY
Feb. 15

Editor Raul G. Manuelo ■ Assistant Editor Carrie S. Nuñeza

BUSINESS

6 Gatchalian firms probed for trade fraud

PSE sees evidence of 'kiting,' 'wash' sales of stocks

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE PHILIPPINE STOCK EXchange is investigating suspicions of stock trading irregularities involving shares of six publicly listed companies affiliated with "Pharma" king William Gatchalian's Wellex group of companies.

The six companies are Anscor (Phils.) Stock Corp., Rowen Pacific Inc., Mabuhay Vinyl Corp., Philippine Estates Corp., Waterfront Phils. Inc., and Wellex Industries Inc.

Mabuhay Vinyl is not officially part of the Wellex group but the Gatchalians' main listed company, Metro Alliance Holdings and Equities Corp. (MAEC)—is among its top 100 stockholders.

The PSE said its clearing and settlement subsidiary Securities Clearing Corporation of the Philippines (SCCP) issued a joint statement on Saturday tightening the trading rules only on these six companies. They required an early delivery of securities or a sale with respect to trades of stocks of these six companies, riding the novel to "maximize and preserve an efficient, fair and orderly market as mandated by the Securities Regulation Code and for the protection of public interest."

» GATCHALIAN B4

IN THIS ISSUE

■ **Landbank to sell**
P12B worth of bonds /B2

■ **Trade gap seen**
to hit $12B in 2009 /B6

Follow-through buying seen

LOCAL STOCK MARKET SENTIMENT HAS improved given a string of positive surprises at the local corporate sector last week as well as fresh optimism on a new stimulus package from US President Barack Obama.

After the Philippine Stock Exchange index jumped 6.43 percent on bargain-hunting last week, most analysts see some follow-through buying this week, especially after the upbeat trading in Wall Street on Friday.

Banco de Oro Unibank sb.stagnaro@bdo.com.ph) said last week's close at 1,362.48 suggested that the local market could test 1,500 this week.

"Failure for the market to breach said levels may drive market toward 1,300-1,300 levels again," he said.

First Metro Investment Corp. vice president Eduardo Barcelo said PLDT, Manila Water and Ayala Corp. will be more highly and asset due to lower-pick reaction from certain events. For instance, PLDT reassured investors that last year's cash dividends were intact while MWC said it was allowed some increases in water tariffs.

» STOCKS B4

Purple Vision

Eng Bee Tin's Gerry Chua and the color of success

The Chuatoco and Sumsuya Eng Bee Tins: Alexander Arevalo

Gov't starts first wave of pump-priming

By Reena V. M. Domingo

THE GOVERNMENT IS EMBARKING ON the first wave of pump-priming this year with P100 billion worth of small infrastructure projects, according to the National Economic and Development Authority.

Dennis Arroyo, director of Neda's national planning and policy staff, said the amount would be spent in some 3,000 "shovel-ready" projects in the second semester with an eye on roadway roads, irrigation and other fast-moving, community-based initiatives.

Compared to the 2009 national budget, this year's allocations total P1.62 trillion, or P160 billion more.

The increase is also part of a P330-billion package that is meant to fund the government's economic stimulus program aimed at sustaining the economy's growth despite the worsening effects of the global financial crisis.

Arroyo said the second wave of pump-priming through public construction would follow in 2010 as this involved large projects such as circumferential roads, toll ways and light rail lines.

"Those things take time to take off," he said. "But it is good timing for them to start now because of the jobs they will generate."

The large-scale projects are to be done through a P180-billion infrastructure stimulus package, which the government and the private sector would contribute equally.

Arroyo said the government has a list of some P1.3 trillion-worth of projects covered

» GOV'T B4

Landbank to sell ₱12B worth of bonds

By Michelle V Rama

GOVERNMENT-RUN LAND BANK OF the Philippines will sell P12 billion worth of bonds in the bond market to beef up its capital.

A monetary official said the Manila-listed ng Pilipinas approved Landbank's planned bond sale during the last meeting of its policy-making Monetary Board on Jan. 30.

Raising capital is necessary for a bank that is intending to expand its business activities as the BSP requires banks to make sure the risks they carry are appropriately covered to avoid possible losses.

The BSP approval came after Landbank's credit rating firm Fitch Ratings made an assessment of Landbank's credit standing.

Fitch assigned a "stable" outlook on Landbank, citing the state-owned financial institution's profitability and a healthy level of reserves that acts as a buffer against its risk exposures.

"Landbank's reserve[s] should enable it to absorb higher losses than are likely amid the weaker economic environment. As for the bank's funding, its strong linkages with the government enable it to attract government and government-linked deposits," Fitch said in its recently announced outlook on the bank.

Fitch gave a grade of "BB" to Landbank's long-term debts, bank floatings and peso-denominated "BB" is a notch below investment grade.

Also, Fitch assigned a national rating to an assessment of credit quality relative to the rating given to an issuer in the same country with the best credit standing. Normally the one with the best credit rating is the national government.

The entity gives a rating of AA to deemed to have a credit standing that is only slightly different from that of the Agency with the best credit rating.

"While the banking sector's asset quality is likely to deteriorate amid the economic weakening, the deterioration is likely to be less severe for [Landbank], given its large exposure and allied sector exposures," Fitch also said.

Last week, Landbank reported that it posted a net income of P5.032 billion in 2008, up 16 percent from P4.31 billion, the previous year. Landbank said the growth, despite the global crisis that started out as bank failures in the United States, was an indication it was in for unaffected by turmoil.

In an earlier statement, Landbank president and chief executive Gilda Pico said the increase in net income was accounted for largely by profits from its investment and lending operations.

Landbank said it generated P2.77 billion worth of revenues from its investments, up 38 percent from the previous year's 12.01 billion.

It also reported a 9-percent increase in its net loans to P12.32 billion. Landbank's outstanding loan portfolio as of end-2008 stood at 208.9 billion, higher by 26 percent year-on-year.

Capital-raising activity gets BSP nod

Why is our economy still growing?

IT SURPRISED MANY, INCLUDING GOVernment itself, that the Philippine economy still posted a respectable aggregate growth rate of 4.1 percent in the last quarter of last year. With the much larger industrialized economies including the US, Japan and Germany already shrinking in recent quarters, it seemed rather unlikely that much smaller economies like ours could continue growing, more so as the rate is did. Singapore, with an aggregate GDP roughly the same as ours but which is shared by only 1/20th as many people—and therefore a much larger economy than ours in relative terms—has also suffered a shrinking economy in recent quarters.

It would seem that we're now in a situation where smaller is better, and largeness is a liability that brings greater vulnerability to the financial meltdown. Is it primarily our smallness that helps us withstand the repercussions of the financial collapse that began in Wall Street? To what can we trace our economy's recent growth?

Underdevelopment

It's actually not so much smallness per se, but the underdevelopment of our economy that has, ironically, become a saving grace for us in the current crisis. There are two reasons to this underdevelopment. First, we still do not export as much of our production as our wealthier sister economies in Singapore have been doing. The numbers tell the story: Our total exports were 42 percent of total GDP in 2007, but this ratio was 221 percent in Singapore, 110 percent in Malaysia, and 73 percent in Thailand. Only Indonesia (at 29 percent) had a smaller export/GDP ratio than the Philippines among the Asean-5.

But note this: If we subtract imports to get net exports, the ratio to GDP was 29 percent in Singapore, 20 percent in Malaysia, 7.6 percent in Thailand, and 1.4 percent in Indonesia—whereas in the Philippines, the ratio was a miniscule 0.46 percent! That is, while our total export sales as a percentage of GDP exceeded that of Indonesia, their exports had much high, as domestic demand (i.e., lower import content) than ours, and thus must have produced more jobs for Indonesians per dollar worth of exports.

What this all tells us is that compared to our Asean-5 neighbors, a much smaller part of our production has been affected by the drop in demand coming from foreigners hit by the financial meltdown. A bigger part of Philippine production is bought by the ignant Americans, whether private households, government or firms—and because Filipinos' own spending continues to grow (we explain why further below), so does our economy.

Underfinanced

The other aspect of our underdevelopment that has been a blessing in disguise at this time is the underdevelopment of our financial/capital markets. In more developed and vibrant economies, formal financial institutions and market mechanisms permeate the economy and propel most of the transactions in the so-called "real economy" (i.e. the market for real goods and services). Indeed, the financial markets fail us, as has happened in the US and other large economies, the real economy grinds to a halt.

Not so in the Philippines. In the survey of Philippine enterprises done for the Global Entrepreneurship Monitor in 2006, one of the striking findings was that only one out of three (34 percent) Philippine enterprises make use of the banking system at all, whether for maintaining deposits or borrowing capital. (In fact, only 5 percent of the surveyed firms sourced any financing from a bank, with the bulk preferring to use borrowings from friends and relatives (46 percent) and personal savings (44 percent) to run their business. With the bulk of Filipino productive enterprises having no dealings with the formal financial sector, it follows that problems in the latter will not have much impact on the former. And so, the financial sector may run into all sorts of difficulties, as the Wall Street meltdown, but life will go on for the bulk of Philippine firms.

Local spending

We have been able to sell lots of our products and services to foreigners through exports, but how could it be that Filipinos have still been spending more in the past year? There are three parts to this: household spending, investment spending, and government spending.

Aggregate household consumption spending continued to grow at a robust 4.5 percent because consumers continued to grow briskly at double-digit rates. This in itself has supported many, as jobs of Filipinos abroad are widely expected to be imperiled by economic slowdown in their host countries. Growth in investment spending was boosted mainly by the 11.4-percent growth in construction. Investment in equipment fell 7.4 percent, in fact, in turn fueled by brisk growth in real estate. As we explained before that in saving in financial instruments like stocks, near-accounts and mutual funds has become rather risky with the financial meltdown, people have rushed to put their money in tangibles, especially real property—thereby replenishing the continuing double-digit growth in this industry. As for growth in government consumption, this was deliberate, with government bent on pump-priming the economy with its own spending stimulus.

The big question now is how long such this impetus for increased spending by Filipinos could last. To figure...

Comments welcome at cfabito@ateneo.edu

Neda insists 3.7-4.7% growth in '09 attainable

By Konrad M. Domingo

THE NATIONAL ECONOMIC AND DEVELopment authority defended the government's assumption that the gross domestic product (GDP) will expand in 2009 by between 3.7 and 4.7 percent amid lousy estimates by international analysts.

Last week, multinational lender International Monetary Fund said it expected the Philippine GDP to grow 1.25 percent while credit rating agency Standard and Poor's placed this at between 2.2 and 2.7 percent.

According to Neda director Rolando Inojo, the Cabinet-level Development and Budget Coordination Committee's GDP growth assumption was based on expectations of continued export growth as well as lower inflation that, in turn, encourages consumption.

GDP is the value of goods produced and services rendered in an economy in a given period. Consumption and exports are among the factors considered to measuring GDP.

"The 2009 GDP growth target assumed a merchandise export growth of 1 to 3 percent," Arroyo said. "Inflation is also projected to fall to 6 percent in 2009 from 9.3 percent in 2008."

He said the economy's performance in the fourth quarter, when the impact of the global meltdown kicked in, gave telling signs that it was stronger than expected.

"The crisis began in September and hit hard in the following three months," he said. "So the economy still grew 4.5 percent in that quarter."

Arroyo added that while merchandise export growth was negative at 9.2 percent in the fourth quarter, one would have expected the economy to post growth at least 3.7 percent but it did not.

"What happened was that manufacturing for the domestic market compensated for the drop in exports," he said.

Socioeconomic planning chief also said manufacturing grew 3.2 percent last quarter, higher than the 2.6 percent posted in the same period of 2007.

Arroyo said the Neda expected the growth momentum to continue at least for the first and second quarters of 2009.

"GNP (gross national product) grew 6.4 percent last quarter as net factor income from abroad increased by 37.9 percent," he said.

"That would feed into personal consumption—which is 70 percent of GDP—in the subsequent quarters," he added.

GNP takes into account Philippine output produced outside the country on top of GDP, including remittances from overseas workers.

Arroyo said measures pump-priming among Middle East countries would help boost remittances as this would drive demand for skilled Filipino workers in the construction sector.

Aside from that, he said that the business process outsourcing firms will benefit from the recovering global trade as American and European firms would cut costs through outsourcing.

SEC drops complaint against Philweb

By Dorie C. Dantao

THE SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMission (SEC) on Monday has dismissed charges of false disclosure filed against businessman Roberto Ongpin's Philweb Corp., related to the PTIWeb's redelighting betting program.

The charges were filed by Inter-Pearl Bay Resources Corp. (IPBC), represented by its chair Fernando Campos, developer and purported rights owner of the "Side-Subong" online redelighting wagering system. IPBC had also wanted the SEC to summon the state-owned Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. (Pagcor), alleging conspiracy with Philweb.

But the SEC en banc said Philweb's disclosures on its "PTV Subong" were sufficient and by its agreement with Pagcor. It added that it lacked jurisdiction over Pagcor, it being a government agency governed by its own charter.

IPBC's petition was that "dismissed without prejudice to the filing of the appropriate actions before the proper forum," the SEC said. The SEC resolution dated Jan. 23 was disclosed by Philweb to the Philippine Stock Exchange on 9 May.

After developing its online redelighting wagering system, IPBC sought a license from the Pagcor to operate and to fund the research and development of the system, but this was declined by the state-owned gaming firm. Sometime in July 2008, IPBC said it discovered that Pagcor would be launching an online betting for redelighting in partnership with Philweb.

Boost Your Career!!! The World's #1 Linux Certification

Linux Professional Institute

7051421

QuickBooks®
Accounting Solutions For All Business Types
Special Offer
Canon PROJECTOR LV-7260
P43,950
Mustard Seed

ROVER
Click! Click!
P17,400.00

VOICE AMPLIFIER TAKSTAR DA-200
P2,500

Philippine Furniture Show

Laser Engraver
Create 1001
• Glass • Acrylic • Marble
• Wood • Leather • Metal
Engrave Welding
Arts & Crafts
Store Displays
Signs and Signages
Gift Items
Fashion and Apparel
Mag-kaagapay ki-tech ka!

Introducing the
Mitsubishi
STRADA
CUSTOM EDITION
Now you can pack, organize, and protect your gear with the free custom designed Dual Lid Bed Cover*
Custom Edition is available only in Strada 2.5 L and 4x2
Body Accent Options
Dual Lid Bed Cover
Steering Wheel Audio Remote
Dual Lid Sport Features
3.2L DOHC MIVEC TURBO INTERCOOLER DI-D
Drive it now for as low as P165,800 downpayment!
Mobile EASY OWN PLUS
Mitsubishi Motors
Drivetrends

SMC, other biofuel firms seek gov't help on land

By Arny S. Barne

SAN MIGUEL CORP. and nine other biofuel companies have sought government assistance in identifying and validating lands that can be planted to ethanol feedstock.

Documents from the National Biofuels Board showed that these companies have won letters of intent to the Sugar Regulatory Administration (SRA) for "assistance in the validation, allocation and identification" of lands that can be planted to sugarcane, cassava and molasses.

San Miguel is reportedly looking to plant in at least 50,000 hectares of land—of which 22,000 hectares are in Ilocos, Negros Occidental, and 14,000 hectares each in Batangas, Tarlac and Ilocos region.

Bronzeoak Philippines Inc. and South Bukidnon Bioenergy Inc. are jointly considering 2,000 hectares of land to be planted to sugarcane and molasses in Bikidnon, Bukidnon. The two companies plan to produce 45 million liters of ethanol a year.

In a separate venture, Bronzeoak has also proposed to plant sugarcane and cassava in Capas, Tarlac, and targets production to reach 40 million liters annually.

Documents showed that Roxol Bioenergy intends to plant molasses in Negros Occidental while Fuel Using Ethanol Ltd. Inc. targets to see registrant in 7,000

Ethanol demand forecast to rise

companies have won letters of intent to the Sugar Regulatory Administration (SRA) for "assistance in the validation, allocation and identification" of lands that can be planted to sugarcane, cassava and molasses.

San Miguel is reportedly looking to plant in at least 50,000 hectares of land—of which 22,000 hectares are in Ilocos, Negros Occidental, and 14,000 hectares each in Batangas, Tarlac and Ilocos region.

Bronzeoak Philippines Inc. and South Bukidnon Bioenergy Inc. are jointly considering 2,000 hectares of land to be planted to sugarcane and molasses in Bikidnon, Bukidnon. The two companies plan to produce 45 million liters of ethanol a year.

In a separate venture, Bronzeoak has also proposed to plant sugarcane and cassava in Capas, Tarlac, and targets production to reach 40 million liters annually.

Documents showed that Roxol Bioenergy intends to plant molasses in Negros Occidental while Fuel Using Ethanol Ltd. Inc. targets to see registrant in 7,000 hectares in Ilocos del Sur. These two companies each target to produce 30 million liters of ethanol annually.

Meanwhile, Republic Power Inc. has yet to decide where to plant its sugarcane and molasses, and Negros Biofuels Corp., on what feedstock it planned to use in Bago, Negros Occidental. Bronzeoak included Bukidnon Inc. also intends to plant sugarcane in Lal-lo, Cagayan, while Isread-based Dasbong 13 Ltd. plans to use molasses in Batangas and Negros.

Government data also disclosed that a joint venture among Green Pioneers Innovations Inc., JGC and Isuzu plans to develop 6,500 hectares of land in San Mariano, Isabela, and produce 30 million liters of ethanol annually.

Carrier Biofuel Producers targets to produce 37.5 million liters a year from 6,000 hectares of land planted to sugarcane in Cavite.

The interest in biofuel production is largely being encouraged by the government in line with the 2006 Biofuels Act, which mandates all companies to use blend gasoline with 5 percent ethanol starting this year, rising to 10 percent by 2011.

However, there are currently only two companies—San Carlos Bioenergy Inc. and Leyte Agri Corp.—that can produce a combined 39 million liters annually. This volume falls short of the country's estimated requirement of 208 million liters. By 2011, this demand is estimated to reach 466.63 million liters, based on the Philippine Energy Plan.

Gov't ... From page B1

in the Medium-Term Philippine Development Plan.

The list includes the extension of the Skyway elevated toll road all the way to Alabang in Muntinlupa City, power and water projects in the Visayas and Mindanao, the extension of the Light Rail Transit line in northern Metro Manila, the construction of LRT lines going to Bicol and Batangas, and the C5 and C6 circumferential roads.

It was announced two weeks ago, by Socio Director General Ralph G. Recto and the government and the private sector—mainly through the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry—were still evaluating which of the projects in the list would be funded.

Recto said results of consultations with the private sector on what projects will be funded were expected within February.

Follow-through ... From page B1

"Both of these vessels are now operated, Aznila Corp. which owns MWC's beneficial owns the the in MWC's stock price," he said.

All Capital Securities analyst Maria Arlyn Sinclao said technical indicators signaled a good start this week, supported by the increasing volume for the past days and declining volatility.

In Wall Street, all the major indices surged more than 2 percent Friday as the Dow Jones industrial average gained over 200 points as investors shrugged off a bleak jobs data report and focused instead on an upcoming stimulus program from Obama.

Doris C. Dumlao

Tired of your OLD id card printer??
Trade It!
Call us now to get our lowest trade-in cost for any ID card printer.
Our two-year free unlimited technical support and attractive pricing will surely allow you to make the decision to switch with confidence.
Valid until March 30, 2009.
Only from ACC
AVLS ALLCARD ALLCARD Hiti
www.avls.com.ph • www.allcard.com.ph

MNTC to start construction of new expressway to NLEx

Project seen completed in April 2010

METRO PACIFIC LED MANILA NORTH Tollways Corp. will begin next month the construction of a nine-lane 2.7-kilometer expressway that will link Mindanao Avenue to North Luzon Expressway (NLEx).

"We expect the construction activities to stimulate the economy in the environs of the areas where the roadways will be built. This project will create some 600 jobs," MNTC president Rodrigo Franco said in a statement.

Based on the plans, the NLEx-Segment 8.1 project will cover the construction of a toll plaza on Mindanao Avenue, where motorists can enter and exit the NLEx. This is expected to ease the flow of traffic on the Quirino Highway/Regalado route.

Construction is expected to be completed in April 2010.

MNTC, the concessionaire for the 84-km NLEx, is majority-owned by First Philippine Infrastructure Investments, now a unit of Metro Pacific Investments Corp. (MPIC) will access for initial P8.6-billion, Tollways Corp.

Segment 8.1 will facilitate a seamless connection of C5 on the south side NLEx, one of the priorities of President Arroyo in her bid to decongest Metro Manila and provide relief to motorists dealing with heavy traffic every day," said Ramoncito Fernandez, FPH president and CEO.

MNTC is now expediting the remaining reinvestment components of the project and coordinating with the Department of Public Works and Highways, the SM Regulatory Board and other government agencies for the completion of the remaining right-of-way requirements.

Fernandez said the project was in line with the framework laid out by President Macapagal-Arroyo in her 2006 and 2007 State of the Nation Address, wherein she emphasized the strategic importance of seamless connections.

While MNTC is building the 2.7-km stretch, the DPWH, Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA), Quezon City government will oversee the parallel construction of the road and other infrastructure projects, Mindanao Avenue to C5 through Katipunan Avenue. Boris C. Dumlao

Forum Energy inks gas sale, purchase deal

FORUM ENERGY PLC, THROUGH MAJORity-owned unit Forum Exploration Inc., signed a gas sale and purchase agreement (GSPA) with a local firm to develop the Libertad gas field for power generation.

The Libertad gas field is located 100 kilometers north of Cebu City.

Under the agreement, Dmci Inc.—a provider of petroleum and geothermal products and services in the Philippines—will install within the year a 1- to 1.5-megawatt power-generating unit in Bogo, Cebu using GE Jenbacher gas engines.

Forum will sell gas to Dmci at an agreed rate of $2.30 per million British Thermal Units (BTU) for the first 0.75 billion cubic feet of gas (BCF) extracted and utilized.

Dmci should also pay Forum $3.60 per million BTU for any gas produced beyond 0.75 BCF.

"We are pleased to have completed this initial step that would eventually lead to the fulfillment of our commitment to the government to produce the Libertad gas field and contribute to the development of indigenous energy resources in the country," said Forum Energy chief executive Wahyu M. Bintoro.

Forum, however, noted that the agreement with Dmci was still subject to the approval of the Department of Energy.

The Libertad gas field is under Service Contract 40 (SC 40) where Nomos holds a 66.7-percent interest. It also covers the onshore Bogo oil and gas find, as well as prospects on Mirad Island and offshore in the Tañon Strait. Amy R. Remo

iRemit posts 45% growth in cash transfer business

UNITED NONBANK CASH TRANSFER FIRM iRemit Inc. posted a 45-percent growth in the value of remittances handled in the first 11 months of 2008 over a year ago, despite the slowing global economy.

In the same period, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas said remittances handled by the banking system increased by 11 percent.

Some $907 million was sent through iRemit in January to November. This translates to about 6.6 percent of the cash transfer made through the banking system during the period.

"Although we are cautious in nearing above-the-industry growth, we expect a slowdown in the last quarter of 2008 because of the current global economic situation," iRemit chair and CEO Bonnie Chua said.

iRemit president Mario Jacildo added: "We delivered very strong results in the first eleven months of 2008 and continued to perform in line with our expectations. Growth was driven by our team's customer-centric strategies that helped us beat targets in a challenging year."

The company continues to tap new markets and develop new product and services as part of its expansion strategy. Recently, iRemit joined forces with CEO-headquartered Sarrosa Equities Inc. in its "Pangkabuhayan" (Enrollment) and "Kabuhayan" (Investing) program. Boris C. Dumlao

PROVEN REAL - TIME ACCOUNTING & INVENTORY SOFTWARE

QnE

Features & Modules:

- Multi-User Server Architecture
- Real-Time Inquiry Tracking
- Foreign Bank Control
- Multiple Warehousing
- Auto Formation of Consolidated Forex Gain/Loss
- VAT & Withholding Tax Module
- Serial Number Control
- Auto Schedule Backup
- Multiple Branch On-Line Solutions

CCTV SECURITY for ALL!

Secure homes, offices, banks warehouses, & shops

Php 6,950

Php 7,000

8 Ch & 16 Ch also available

DEALERS ARE WELCOME!

IP CAMERA

STAR VALUE INTRODUCES 360 SECURITY SOLUTIONS REVOLUTION

HITACHI LCD PROJECTORS

THERE'S ONE TO SUIT EVERY NEED.

ULTRA SHORT THROW | ULTRA LIGHT-WEIGHT | PORTABLE | CONFERENCE

HITACHI Inspire the Next

Cramped?
Move in to a new, refreshing environment.

THE ROCKWELL BUSINESS CENTER

Introducing a campus-type environment that integrates work, leisure and dining in a single destination.

Do business beyond four walls.

Customized office spaces available for lease.

For leasing inquiries:
Call Kate Tayu or Jan Chavez through 793-1097
Log on to www.e-rockwell.com

Trade gap seen to hit $12B in '09

RP exports weakening as global demand slumps

By Michelle V. Rorra

THE COUNTRY'S TRADE DEFICIT IS EXpected to swell to $12 billion this year, with the anemic global demand seen to pull down export earnings, said Hong Kong Shanghai Banking Corp. (HSBC).

According to government data, the country's trade deficit in the first 11 months of 2008 stood at $6.99 billion.

Trade deficit (or surplus) is the difference between income generated from exports and the amount spent on imports.

In its latest paper on the Philippine economy, HSBC said the likely increase in the trade deficit this year could cause a drag to the country's current account, which posted a surplus of $1.168 billion in January to September last year.

The world economy is expected to go into recession this year, led by the recessions of rich economies such as the United States and Europe, two of the Philippines' biggest export markets. The two markets alone accounted for about 31 percent of the country's export earnings.

Businesses and thus under tight income situations, consumers tend to reduce spending, especially on non-essentials. This is why global demand for electronics, the Philippines's biggest export earner, has been falling.

The dwindling of the country's exports prompted government's economic managers to come up with measures to address the likely consequences of rising jobless rate. An increase in government spending for infrastructure may among the economic moves made by the administration to generate employment.

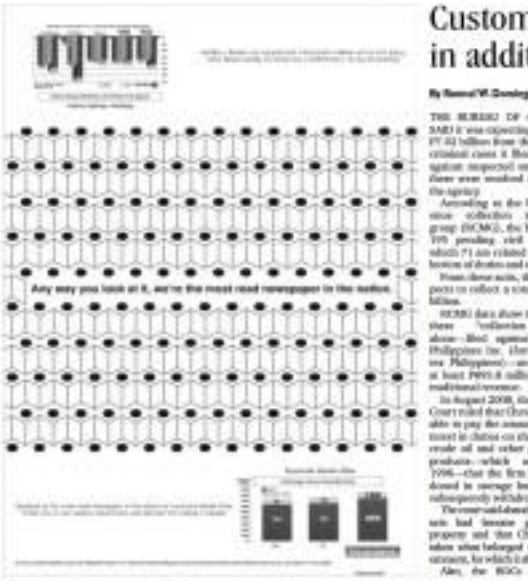
HSBC said a factor aggravating the country's weakening export performance was the still relatively strong peso. Although the local currency had depreciated late last year, it averaged 48.38 to $1 in December. It was 40.94 in January—the bank said it was still stronger than the currencies of neighboring countries.

"The peso is one the most expensive currency in Asia. Coupled with ongoing 'rebalancing' (the shift of investments to avert) dollar-denominated assets) and leakage by exporters, these factors should overwhelm any remaining surplus on the current account side," HSBC said.

To boost the country's exports and current account, HSBC said, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) could allow the peso to weaken a bit this year. It said the BSP had not been an aggressive as before to intervening in the market.

"This could suggest the central bank is becoming more receptive to a weaker peso, joining the ranks of other Asian countries like Singapore, Taiwan, Thailand and India supporting a weaker P/$ policy," HSBC said.

HSBC expects the peso to weaken this year. But the weakening would be gradual and that it would not force the central bank to do much intervention.



Customs eyes ₱7.9B in additional revenue

By Nanna W. Domingo

THE BUREAU OF CUSTOMS (BOC) said it was expecting to collect P7.82 billion from the civil and criminal cases it filed last year against suspected smugglers if these were resolved in favor of the agency.

According to the BOC's anti-smuggling group (SCMG), the bureau has 395 pending civil cases, of which 71 are related to the collection of duties and taxes.

From these cases, the BOC expects to collect a total of P5.82 billion.

BOC data show that one of these "collection cases" alone—filed against Chevron Philippines Inc. (formerly Caltex Philippines)—amounts for at least P893.6 million in non-traditional revenue.

In August 2008, the Supreme Court ruled that Chevron was liable to pay the assessed plus interest in duties on shipments of crude oil and other petroleum products which arrived in 1996—that the firm had abandoned in storage tax which is subsequently forfeited.

The court said abandoned goods such had become government property and that Chevron had taken what belonged to the government, for which it should pay.

Also, the BOC had filed through its then Atty. The Smuggling program (BMES) 92 criminal cases involving 439 suspected duties and some P1.9 billion in possible additional collection.

The cases are in various levels of the judiciary—19 with the Court of Tax Appeals, 12 with Regional Trial Courts and four with Municipal Trial Courts. The rest are under preliminary investigation, of which 47 are pending for resolution.

Similarly, the Revenue Integrity Protection Service (RIPS, the anti-corruption arm of the Department of Finance) has filed 58 cases against officials of the Commission a total of 64 cases involving 163 public officials awaiting to agencies under the DOF.

Created under Executive Order No. 259, issued in December 2003, RIPS investigates allegations of corruption in the BOF and its attached agencies.

Of the respondents, 25 are with the Bureau of Internal Revenue, 64 with the BOC, eight with the Bureau of Local Government Finance, one with the DOF central management information office and another with the Cooperative Development Authority.

Of those involved, 37 people were named as preventive suspension and 11 have been dismissed, including an assistant commissioner of the BOC and a regional director of the BIR.

LGU dev't seen to boost RP competitiveness

By Abigail L. Ho

THE NATIONAL COMPETITIVENESS Council (NCC) is focusing on strengthening local governance units and harnessing their strengths to help prepare the country for the economic upswing that is expected to take place after the global recession.

In an interview, NCC co-chair Cielo Ilacios said the upgrade of the country's LGUs was NCC's No. 1 priority project for the year, as stronger and more efficiently run LGUs can serve as the biggest catalyst to boosting the country's global competitiveness as an investment hub.

He said the project aimed to create and nurture 120 LGU "Spark Plugs" that would serve as focus centers for specific sources industries.

"We're classifying them according to the points that they feel they have something to offer as a key player to nurture industries, including tourism, agribusiness, business process outsourcing and information technology, health and wellness, and mining," he said.

"The economic cycle will eventually get back and we have to be prepared for that. We're going to use this period to catch up with the rest of the world. We don't want to be where we were before when the economy picks up again," he added.

The LGU upgrading process started last year with the conduct of LGU summits to orient concerned LGUs about the project. Questionnaires were then distributed to LGU leaders to determine to which areas they had the strongest potential.

With the latest and most attractive offer to date, Wang Cars, Incorporated, the official authorized dealer and distributor of Volvo cars in the Philippines gives its valued clients a chance to own the Volvo they have always dreamed of at amazingly reduced prices.

Offered on selected units and until stocks last, it's the best time to grab this rare opportunity and experience the ride of one of the safest, most exciting cars in the world. Currently available on the roster of units on sale are the All-New Volvo S80, Volvo XC90 AWD and the All-New Volvo XC70.

One can already enjoy the premium **All-New Volvo S80 at P2,750,000.00**, with a whopping P500,000.00 slashed off from its previous price tag. The seven-seater 3.2L **Volvo XC90 AWD** that runs with a 238 bhp kick and a torque of 320 Nm is now **at P2,890,000.00**. Available in either a fuel-efficient diesel or a 3.2L petrol engine, the All-New Volvo XC70 is an crossover vehicle that can bring you to any road you choose. The XC70 boasts of a reduced price tag starting with **P3,049,000.00 for the XC70 3.2L and P3,140,000.00 for the XC70 D5** variant.

It's the best time to avail yourselves of the best ownership package that gives you an exciting ride, top-class comfort and all the safety innovations Volvo is known the world over – all bundled in one very enticing price package. **Test drive now and call 893 8821 to 23.**

Volvo Makati - 2213 Chino Roces Avenue (Formerly Pasong Tamo Ext.), Makati City

Volvo Cebu - A.S. Fortuna Street, Banilad, Mandaue City 6014 Cebu

AIJA'S FINANCE MINISTER OF THE YEAR
Finance Secretary Margarito Teves (second from left) receives the 2009 Finance Minister of the Year Asia Award from The Banker magazine Editor Brian Caplen (right), as President Macapagal-Arroyo and Miss Teves look on. The formal awarding was held recently at the sidelines of the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland.

6 Gatchalian firms probed ...

From page B1

With the calm on early delivery, those who wish to trade the shares of these companies must make sure that the traders are ready for electronic settlement from day one because the local bourse would not allow the usual three-day settlement period for other stocks traded on the local bourse.

Francis Lim, PSE and SCCP president and chief executive officer, said the joint decision was necessary to protect the public interest and as a risk management measure. "We are calling for the cooperation of our brokers to adhere to this requirement. We cannot consequently expose our stock market to floating and settlement risks as that would compromise the integrity of our market," he said.

"Brokers should make sure that their clients are responsible as it will dampen investor confidence," Lim said.

"In case a broker violates any of the foregoing requirements, the liability or damages, directly or indirectly arising therefrom, shall be for the sole account of the erring broker, with no recourse to the PSE and SCCP," he said.

But the PSE's official statement did not explain why the shares of these six companies would henceforth be treated differently from other shares. Other PSE sources privy to the decision explained to the bourse that the local bourse had taken these steps because it had found "prima facie" evidence of stock price trading irregularities, specifically "kiting" and "wash" sales.

Kiting generally occurs when securities firms fail to deliver securities of buy and sell transactions in a timely manner or before the three-day settlement period. The firm failing to receive the securities is required to make up for the shortage by buying from the open market. The defaulting firm ends up buying the securities set of hitting if it fails to purchase the securities on the open market and maintains a short position, delays delivery or takes part in transactions contrary to regulations regarding the proper settlement of trades.

Wash sale, on the other hand, refers to the practice of selling the same shares over and over again to simply push gains to an artificial level.

INFOTECH

THE DEVICE actually comes in two parts: A smart phone and a stylish Link digital watch.

SMART PHONE WITH SMART LOOKS

High-end, high-tech tie-up

The phone's designers remained true to Italian fashion 'laws'

By Dixie L. Lucas

REMEMBER THOSE times when you had to struggle to get your phone out of your pocket (for guys) or find them out of your huge bag (for girls) only to find that you didn't want to take the call or read a forwarded text joke?

Well, 3G electronics has come up with the perfect solution for you, in conjunction with the ultra chic designers at Italian fashion house Prada.

Enter the new LG LG P9500 (officially dubbed, for marketing purposes, as "the Prada Phone by LG")...the latest in a growing line of so-called smart phones that aim to provide users with the ability to do almost everything that a small notebook can, and make phone calls, too.

The Prada phone has many enticing features, but the one anyone will spot first is that it actually comes in two parts: the smart phone and a stylish, Prada Link digital watch with an leather wrap.

The watch is not just a fashion accessory that goes with the phone (although they do look good together). The watch, in fact, flashes the name and number of anyone who calls your Prada phone. Using your watch's controls, you can "answer" (i.e., silence the ringing) of your phone or reject the call.

Let's go to the plus in existence—the Prada phone.

Those of you who like the minimalist look of the iPhone will love the styling of the Prada phone. The Milan-based designers had as much influence over its design that they reportedly insisted on sits in Steve Jobs' headquarters when they insisted that the menu systems on the phone's 3.inch WQVGA screen be rendered in minimalist black and white, true to Italian fashion 'laws.'

Those of you who love the multi-touch interface of the iPhone (that is, being able to expand, shrink, scroll through photos, web and pages with one or two fingers) will be delighted to find the same features on the Prada phone.

Also, those who like the physical keyboard that BlackBerries offer will be delighted with the slide-out Qwerty keyboard that LG engineers have provided. Its metallic keys are to be credited as somewhere between the crisp clicks of the BlackBerry and the improbable "clicks" on the iPhone.

The phone had its debut/launch last week in Singapore and will become available within the first half of 2009.

Other enhanced features include 3G compatibility with video calling, 7.2Mbps HSDPA, full HTML browser, e-mailing ability, 5-mega pixel camera with Schneider-Kreuznach certified lens and Wi-Fi connectibility.

One of the more exciting features of this phone (and ironically, one of the simplest) is one commonly overlooked by Western engineers when designing products for the Asian market.

With the Prada phone, you can text using just one hand—one thumb tapping the touch screen alphanumeric keypad display—the way 3995 percenters in Hokkaido designed and intended texting to be. Hallelujah!

The Prada phone goes for $650 (about P40,000), while the cutest Prada Link watch will set you back by another $450 (about P28,000).

BenQ
Enjoyment Matters
DLP
Let your Presentation Shine
2200 ANSI Lumens
SVGA (800x600 pixels)
4.9 lbs (2.2 kg)
2500:1
10W / 30000/6000 hours
*Lamp life normal/economic mode
MP512
Php. 27,888.00
MP512ST
SHORT THROW
Php. 39,888.00
FREE
CASIO 8 Megapixels
Free Tripod Screen
70" x 70"
Distributed by:
Manila (02) 634-8951 to 59
Cebu (032) 344-5185
Davao (082) 221-0080

THE "OCEAN" feature enables users to go beneath the water's surface and explore the underwater world in 3D.

Under the sea, over to Mars with new Google Earth

By Raquel P Gerves

GOOGLE EARTH, GOOGLE'S popular virtual globe, has expanded beyond satellite and aerial views to include ocean depths, old maps, and even the surface of planet Mars.

The new version of Google Earth Google Earth 5.0) now has the "Ocean" feature that enables users to go beneath the water's surface, explore underwater terrain in 3D and browse ocean-related content contributed by leaders in ocean science and advocacy.

Google Earth 5.0, which can be downloaded at http://earth.google.com, also introduces "Historical Imagery," a feature that enables users to virtually travel back in time and study earlier stages of any place with archived satellite and aerial imagery. A click of the "Time slider" on top of the area being viewed takes the user to different years, and immediately the viewer can see how the landscape changed over time.

Another new feature is "Touring," which allows users to record a free-form tour of Google Earth with the press of the "record" icon. Users can even personalize the journey with narration or background music and share with others.

VIEWERS can also explore the Martian terrain.

The new Google Earth also included a separate globe of the planet Mars, where high resolution imagery and 3D renderings of the Martian terrain can be viewed in a similar way to Google Street View.

Ocean features in Google Earth includes 20 content layers that contain information contributed by the world's leading scientists, researchers, and ocean explorers. Several photographs of the sea or creatures living in it, information, and videos are provided by organizations, such as National Geographic, BBC Earth, and Jacques Cousteau Ocean World.

According to Google, the ocean feature was developed to help people realize the importance role of the ocean in global climate change, and its impact on humans and other creatures that live on it/Earth.

The Ocean feature was developed by Google in collaboration with oceanographer and National Geographic Explorer-in-Residence Sylvia Earle and an advisory council of leading ocean advocates

BBC Ocean

YOUR ENTIRE DATA CENTRE IN ONE AFFORDABLE PACKAGE.
intel Xeon Powerful. Efficient.
The IBM BladeCenter® S is another industry first from IBM. This single solution can replace an entire data center. It integrates your servers, storage, networking and management tools in one compact setup. Powered by Intel® Xeon® processors, this energy efficient BladeCenter S is easy to virtualize and reduces the cost of data management.
From the people and Business Partners of IBM, innovation made easy.
GET YOUR IBM BLADECENTER OR IBM SYSTEM x SERVER TODAY!
Php 346,800.00
GET AN ADDITIONAL IBM SYSTEM STORAGE!
MORE OFFERS AVAIL FOR EXPRESS SERVERS!
ibm.com.ph/offers
1800-1888-1426 or (632) 880-2426
ibm express advantage

Inflation risk has some pining for gold

NEW YORK—Investors seek a surge in US government borrowing has some analysts anxious that, over in the hereafter, the return of dollar-denominated bonds, long the favorite of global traders, may be the eventual result.

A recent spike in both gold prices and the cost of insuring sovereign debt against default shows that investors worry an eventual meltdown of major currencies cannot be ruled out.

Economists emphasize that the prospect of a Weimar Republic–like crisis of confidence in money itself is not the most likely endgame to the global credit crisis.

They also note that, given the predominant role of dollar-denominated debt on Asian banks' balance sheets, a flood of liquidity from the Federal Reserve to bail the financial system with money it only recently printed could exacerbate the most rapid retrenchment in US consumer spending in half a century.

Yet these investors welcome a few years to unhook big banks and businesses from the stupefying addiction to spending money in fast succession on paper currency not based on hard assets.

Indeed, the latest jump was triggered in part by massive government debt issuance, which some say threatens to undermine the value of the paper it is printed on.

Spot gold has rebounded three a low in November around $713 per ounce to $934 on Thursday, a 29 percent rise. At the same time, credit default swaps on five-year treasury notes have recently spiked to a record $53 basis points, up more than 300 times previous levels.

In previous periods of high inflation, such as the post-World War I years in Germany's Weimar Republic, precious metals are among a handful of hard assets that have been able to preserve their worth.

In that context, some analysts worry a huge expansion of the supply of money, which could run to about $4 trillion in the United States alone, will stoke a surge of inflation down the line.

"The key to any dual-digit investment is without perils of its own.

"Even the bullishness in gold over the last 20 years doesn't tell me that's the place where I want to put my money at any moment," said Thomas Higgins, chief economist at Stadion Money Management in Los Angeles, California.

Nonetheless, the vulnerability of the US currency has some property managers unwilling investors held at least some gold in their portfolios. Reuters

In global markets, flickers of optimism despite gloom

Hope floats with some better-than-expected economic reports

LONDON—GERMAN INDUSTRIAL OUTput slumps to its worst level since reunification. US monthly job losses are the biggest for 34 years. Equity markets rally.

Something is going on in financial markets that suggests investors may believe that a bottom is here or near for the global economic downturn and the stock market collapse.

Reactions to the two bits of gloomy data on Friday was mostly nonchalant. MSCI's all-country world stock index, boosted by gains across Wall Street, Europe and Asia, headed for its seventh positive session in the past six.

What appears to be happening is that a scattered series of improvements in macroeconomic data, some of which is just not as bad as expected, is outweighing more dire reports.

It has combined with a growing faith that government bailout and stimulus plans will work. On Friday markets were driven forward by growing hopes that a $900 billion-plus US economic package would be passed by Congress soon.

The glut of the flickering optimism is that the much-touted green shoots of economic recovery may be about to pop up out of the recessionary mire.

"The flavor of an optimistic beat, could manifest here ... begun to function, money supply to fuel investment. Bread into emerging markets stands positive," Stan Shaw said in a note that otherwise showed highly cautious investment. Gives, "That might yet prove to be the last hurrah of extreme risk aversion."

The evidence for optimism comes from two places. First, there have been better-than-expected economic reports. The second boost has certainly been the fact that equity markets also appear to have been raised or by borrowing other but year's massive fall.

Not all the news, or counts, has been conducive to that tentative optimism, as the IHS and German data showed on Friday.

Many investors are also quick not to rule out deeper losses as world (again) weakens.

Still, an optimist would say that it is exactly when things are at their gloomiest that things start to turn. Reuters

DEPT up in the pain caused by Bernard L. Madoff's (above) Ponzi scheme are many who should be cheering for in-flight of their fees. In possible retirement rather than scrambling for a thing. AFP/FILE

Savings lost to Madoff, elderly forced to work

BOSTON—AFTER LOSING his entire life's savings to the ground-level manager of Bernard Madoff, 66-year-old Ian Thieneman abandoned retirement and now works the aisles of a grocery store to make ends meet.

Heading out their banking associates and peek rifle-at-a-supermarket in Bee Lomond, California. Thieneman is one of many facing dramatic lifestyle changes after losing their savings in Madoff's suspected $50 billion Ponzi scheme.

Thieneman stated even money he had invested with Madoff until Dec. 15, when a friend who managed his investments called him on the telephone.

"He said, 'I've lost everything, and you have lost everything,'" Ms. Thieneman, that stated $970,000.

Days after the release of a list of thousands of Madoff customers—from Hall of Fame baseball pitcher Sandy Koufax to actor John Malkovich—a picture is emerging of a scandal that has overshadowed far beyond Manhattan's affluent to those who have lost nearly everything.

Thieneman, owner of a personal company in Los Angeles before retiring 25 years ago, enjoyed returns of 10 to 12 percent each year on his savings for about 25 years regardless of whether markets rose or fell. He lived on those returns, devoting much time to nonprofit work.

"He don't have any cash or savings now, and we still owe money on our house," he said in a telephone interview.

In What Orange Brunswick, Maureen Bird also was devoted a comfortable retirement, and works as a cleaner after losing her family savings of $7.5 million to Madoff.

On Dec. 17, an hour after learning of her losses, the 69-year-old widow found work cleaning the home of a friend and caring for a 93-year-old woman. Bird's husband, a lawyer, died in 2000 at age 51. The former nurse is also selling her luxury Lexus SUV and a relative home in Florida.

After losing money to Madoff, Lawrence Siford, dean of the Massachusetts School of Law, said both the SEC Securities and Exchange Commission and the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority could be held liable for investors' losses.

"The brokerage industry is responsible for the losses there are the people that caused all of this," he said. Reuters

PAMPANGA II ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.
(PAMELCO, PAMPANGA)

The Pampanga II Electric Cooperative, Inc. is inviting all interested parties for the following bids:

Item 1) Invitation to Bid

Specifications:

- Line power system 1,000 kVA per system
- Distribution
- Wiring
- Parallel Connection
- Auxiliary to 34.5kV Connection
- Serial Connection
- Ballast
- Figure Information Standard
- High Speed Push 100 dia or higher
- Warranty 1MW or 10Mwhrs

Interested parties are required to submit the following documents of qualification requirements: 1) Company Profile, 2) Registration from BIR (TIN) and BIR, 3) Income Payment, 4) Latest Audited Financial Statements, 5) A valid Mayor's or Business Permit, 6) Latest Income Tax Return. Accreditation is subject to a non-refundable fee of P 1,000.00. However, interested parties who have already purchase accreditation in the past years shall accredited this year (each one) to submitted updated requirements.

Bids shall be accompanied by a bid bond either in cash, manager's or cashier's check equivalent to two and a half percent (2. 1/2) of the total bid price.

Submission of qualification requirements - February 5-11, 2009
Date and Time of Bidding - February 19, 2009 at 1:30 PM (1:30 to 2:00PM)
Venue - PELCO II Main Office Warehouse San Roque, Dinalupihan, Pampanga

The documents may be obtained from the Secretariat of the committee upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P 1,000.00 thru its Cashier/Collection Section Department on (045) 8938811.

Bid/bid documents are available starting February 5, 2009.

Only accredited bidders who secured bid documents and paid the bidding costs (non-refundable) that will be allowed to participate in the bidding.

PELCO II MANAGEMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, WAIVE ANY OF THE REQUIRED FORMALITIES THEREIN AND ACCEPTS BIDS AND DEEMED MOST ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE COOPERATIVE.

(Sgd.) JANET M. GOLEZON
PBAC Chairperson
No Bid Fee

(Sgd.) ABAGON T. GUEVARRA
General Manager

Himlayang Pilipino Plans, Inc.

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Unscrupulous individuals have spread vile rumors about the closure of Himlayang Pilipino Plans, Inc. THESE ARE ALL LIES!

Himlayang Pilipino Plans, Inc. (HPPI) is a Filipino corporation duly organized and existing under and by virtue of the laws of the Philippines. HPPI has been engaged primarily in the business of Fixed-Value Life Plans since 1978 or for the past 31 years now. In 1992, HPPI introduced to the market another Fixed-Value product: the Assured College Education (ACE) Plan.

Over the years, HPPI has consistently operated with integrity as shown in all its public documents, including records with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), particularly its compliance with SEC rules and regulations.

HPPI has been regularly issued its Dealer's Licenses and Permits to Sell. For the year 2009, HPPI's Dealer's License No. 254 was issued and approved by the SEC as early as December 2, 2008. It was among the first companies given its Dealer's License for 2009.

HPPI's main office is located in Triumph Building, 1610 Quezon Avenue, Quezon City with telephone numbers 927-9671 to 75, 929-6611 to 12, 927-9734 and 927-9722. To date, it has 24 branches in Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao. Any inquiry or concern can be directed to HPPI's main office or any of its branches nationwide.

BUSINESS

Mineral production expected to hit P74B this year

By Riza T. Chikiamco

THE COUNTRY'S mineral production reached 71 billion in 2008 and this could rise to P74 billion this year, a government report said.

In its Philippine Metallic Mineral Production report, the Mines and Geosciences Bureau said the country mined P62.89 billion worth of minerals last year.

Precious metals accounted for P42.79 billion, with gold production reaching P41.57 billion and silver P522 million.

Base metals contributed P10.16 billion to the total. Nickel ore produced reached P7.51 billion, followed by nickel concentrates, P6.41 billion; copper concentrates, P0.00 billion; chromite, P107.11 million and zinc, P39.45 million.

The government has yet to finalize its estimates for this year's mineral production.

Initial estimates, however, showed the value could reach as much as P75.69 billion, with gold still topping the list with P46.14 billion. Silver production could be worth P522 million.

Among base metals, nickel ore production is estimated to reach P8.76 billion; nickel concentrates, P6.67 billion; copper concentrates, P7.39 billion; chromite, P900 million and zinc, P1.3 billion.

Gold prices are seen to increase as economic uncertainty makes gold a safe investment. UBS recently raised its gold price forecast to $1,000 per ounce in 2009, from a previous target of $750 per ounce.

Nickel, which accounts for the bulk of the Philippines' mineral production in terms of quantity, is also seen to increase in value.

Nickel prices have dropped to $4 per pound from about $14 a pound last year, but analysts say long-term nickel prices is $6 to $7 per pound.

Rosina Mining SCL's CEO Robert G. Gregory said prices could ever recovering within the year.

Low cost mining operations would remain viable in the Philippines, he said.

Asian Hills Bank Granted Unsecured Subordinated Debt Facility (USDF) by Landbank

ASIAN HILLS BANK INC. (AHBI), based in Makabalay City, Bukidnon, was granted Unsecured Subordinated Debt Facility (USDF) by Landbank of the Philippines (LBP). The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP), through Resolution No. 1724 of the Monetary Board dated December 23, 2008, approved the request of Asian Hills Bank for the private issuance of up to P50 million 10-year USD, which qualifies as a lower tier 2 capital under the facility of Landbank. Signing of the USD agreement was held on January 28, 2009 at the Landbank Plaza in Malate, Manila.

BUSINESS Monday
Business Features Editor
Margie Quimpo-Espino

Great Deals for Business
Simply bring your business permit to any Globe Center.
Call 730-1288 for more details.
Globe Business

PERSONAL FINANCE FOR VALENTINE'S

When love means sharing your wealth

AUGUSTUS J.R. Ferreria and wife Mariecris

By Ma. Salve Ouplito
Inquirer.net

IT'S EASY TO FALL IN love. The hard part comes when money troubles linger into a couple's life and the sweet nothings fly out the window.

"Financial finance is the most sensitive issue in personal finance," says Augustus J.V. Ferreria, senior executive vice-president of General Filipinas. He started his financial planning practice back in the early 1980s, but first plied some bank in corporate life. His wife, Mariecris, is a registered financial accountant and continues the practice.

"It's either you experience it, go through the pain, learn from it and live in financial harmony for the rest of your life, or you live through financial troubles with the children witnessing everything," Ferreria says. "Some couples don't survive that."

The culprit that causes the tension-filled and sometimes are wealth agent when it comes to handling money. While there may be exceptions, Ferreria explains that men are generalists and care only about the total amount, while women have an innate need to work through all the details.

"When a spouse asks questions why the money was spent on this and that, the other one feels accused of using up all the money," he says. "Makakasakit ng damdamin (that hurts.)"

The solution is finding a middle ground where both can decide what to do and how to agree on disagree. For couples that are just about to say their "I do's," it's imperative that financial issues are discussed. No dicker that are counted "for richer or poorer," dredging lines of communication is imperative.

"There's not to be a minimum of the two styles of being a generalist and the detailed approach. I believe men and women are meant to be like that so both can contribute. Men to increase more income—just give them the toys they want and they don't care about the rest except to earn more...while women can make sure there's no wanton spending," Ferreria says.

Money is a topic that is considered

DYMO
THE LABELING SPECIALIST

LabelWriter 400 Turbo

Balfour Beatty Group Ltd.
Philippine Branch

Balfour Beatty Group Ltd. Philippine Branch celebrates first anniversary of its Overhead Transmission Line Training Centre here in the Philippines.

Balfour Beatty Group Ltd. Philippine Branch is wholly owned by the Balfour Beatty Group of the United Kingdom. It takes pride in being involved in projects which directly improve the lives of people and their communities – from power line construction, to overhead transmission line training initiative and deployment. Recently, the company successfully completed the Bridge Replacement Project for the Department of Public Works and Highways, Philippines.

This year, in conjunction with Balfour Beatty 100 year's operation at the forefront of infrastructure contracting around the world, Balfour Beatty Group Ltd. Philippine Branch joins its mother company in celebrating its centenary.

Balfour Beatty Group Ltd. Philippine Branch is committed to the principles of good governance and aim to do business with integrity aspiring to the highest standards. Our excellent performance, all round strengths, clear strategy and strong cash position mean that we face the future globally with great confidence and continue to be the leader in roads, rails, bridges, support services, electrical and mechanical engineering and other disciplines.

What matters most?
My bank offers all kinds of solutions, whether at home or at work.
My bank answers all my needs, whether here or abroad.
My bank provides all kinds of services that are personalized, hassle-free and complete.
My bank is Maybank.
Maybank

Beyond reform, beyond transformation

(Conclude)

THIS PIECE IS A FOLLOW-UP TO AN earlier one that appeared on this column (Jan. 26 issue). In that article, I enumerated a number of reasons why I think that the Basic Education Sector Reform Agenda (Besra), the ongoing initiative of the Department of Education (DepEd) to transform basic education in the Philippines, is "doomed to fail." I based my assessment on what I know about the workings of complex social systems.

Lack of philosophy of learning

In looking closely at Besra (http://www.besra.org/BESRA.html), I concede that the document contains a number of good and well-conceived proposals. I also find it to be a very comprehensive and well-articulated program. However, as to everything else, the devil is in the details.

A major shortcoming of Besra is its failure to specify clearly an underlying philosophy or theory of learning, one that would provide the overall rationale for the entire set of proposals, and thus lend it a semblance of coherence.

It is silent on such critical issues as curriculum design and the modalities of an effective delivery system. The underlying signals we get from various sections seem to suggest that there is a good deal of confusion on relevant issues, such as language of instruction, teaching methods and summative content. Particularly distressing is the hodgepodge of suggestions coming from different quarters, such as adding yet another year of instruction here or there, using English as the medium of instruction from the very first year of basic education, and adding to the existing curriculum such science topics as chaos and the working of the stock market. Throughout the country's educational system, there seems to be a total confusion between information and true knowledge, by which I mean the ability to make sense of and to appreciate the world around us, to apply information to making reasoned judgments, and to continue learning as a lifelong undertaking.

Dated change strategy

Besra seems to fly in the face of current thinking on social and institutional change. It belongs to a genre of organizational change strategies known as "Planned Unprecedented Changes." Among the best-known of these models is Business Process Reengineering (BPR), which today has become largely discredited.

Short aims to bring about a fundamental transformation in the country's educational system by drastically altering its overall structure and operational procedures. It is an extremely complicated and complex plan that includes a large number of interlocking components and involves several participants within and outside of DepEd.

Besra implicitly assumes that changing the values of certain variables in the educational system will automatically move the system to its desired state. It pays little attention to institutional and cultural constraints. It ignores issues to the cognitive capabilities of those who are expected to participate in the change process. It takes for granted that all participants are strongly motivated to pursue organizational objectives. It glosses over inefficiencies and dysfunctions of the system that is currently in place.

The structure of Besra seems to lack a basic understanding of the workings of complex systems. They assume that it is possible to transform the country's educational system along a predictable path to an ideal state. Moreover, they assume this can be accomplished within a specific time frame (in this case, the six-year period up until 2015).

Time and complexity

Like all other complex systems, our educational system will behave unpredictably in response to any disturbance. In implementing Besra, any initial change made anywhere in the educational system is likely to trigger all unexpected reactions within and outside the system. As a result, the system will move in directions that are significantly different from what have been intended. Steve Jobs got it rather succinctly when he said, "You cannot connect the dots looking forward."

A preferred change strategy?

Short of totally dismantling the country's system of basic education and building from the ground up, what if half? Intrinsically opposed to my earlier piece, what sort of change strategy may be expected to yield positive results?

Current thinking suggests that organizational change is a slow—some would say evolutionary—process, one that is impossible to fast track. In keeping with this philosophy, it would seem that a better strategy is to implement change in gradual increments, one small step at a time.

Implementing such a strategy requires a number of initial steps to establish the conditions that are conducive to change. These include organizational arrangements that facilitate a free flow of information, a reasonable inventory of requisite skills and competencies, and a culture characterized by mutual trust. Most important of all is a strong commitment to the common good.

Such strong commitment to higher-order goals requires a degree of enlightenment that is difficult to achieve as it runs counter to self-seeking behavior so common to ordinary mortals. It can be achieved neither by lofty slogans nor by gentle arm-twisting, but by setting up performance evaluation and reward-and-sanction systems that reward contributions to the attainment of organizational goals, and to build up the capacity to achieve these goals.

These conditions are those that characterize what is known as a learning organization, one that benefits from its work experiences and is capable of building up the capacity to sustain change.

Our proposed strategy is to introduce one small change here, another one there at appropriate time intervals, and nudging the system ever so gently in preferred directions. The ensuing changes will be an agonizingly slow process, but it will have much better chances of success. By contrast, Besra is a horribly put together quick-fix solution that cannot be expected to yield its stated goals. Certainly not by its self-imposed target of 2015.

(The article reflects the personal opinion of the author and does not reflect the official stand of the Management Association of the Philippines. The author is co-chair of the MAP Publications and Advocacy Research Committee, an active academic and a knowledge management consultant. Feedback at ingfelix@yahoo.com.ph. For previous articles, please visit e-map.org/pub.)

TOP TRUCK TIMES THREE.

It's official.

the pickup with 'the first' and 'the most' is thrice hailed the best.

2008 CI Magazine Editor's Pick Best 4x4 Pickup

Petron 2008 Car of the Year Philippine Awards Best 2WD Pickup

2008 Petron Auto Focus People's Choice Awards Pickup of the Year

Even the naysayers will agree, this is not happenstance's luck. For while a single car award may be written off as a fluke, a triple crown is impossible to ignore.

Winning the proverbial grand slam is more than sufficient proof of a vehicle's bankability. Even more so, if the feat is accomplished during the vehicle's maiden year.

Little more than a year old in the market, the Nissan Frontier Navara has already won three of the country's esteemed automobile awards.

It is the 2008 Petron Autolicious People's Choice Awards' Pickup of the Year, the 2008 Editors' Pick of CI Magazine for Best 4x4 Pickup and the 2008 Petron Car of the Year Philippine Awards' Best 2WD Pickup.

Along with garnering the most number of votes in public polls, the Navara obtained the best results among all pickup trucks in stringent technical, qualitative and performance tests conducted by each of the award-giving bodies.

A Global Phenom

While this year's grand slam is a first for the Navara in the Philippines, it is but the latest in a string of accolades for the vaunted pickup.

Even a cursory Google search will reveal a slew of similar critical raves for the Nissan Navara by motoring publications in Asia, Australia, Europe, the United Kingdom, and the Middle East.

The First. The Most. The Only.

Just what is the driving force behind the Nissan Navara's success? Engineering innovation at almost every turn.

All told, this is a truck loaded with superlatives.

The Navara's 2nd Generation Common Rail Turbo Intercooler diesel engine has the **HIGHEST HORSEPOWER RATING** at 174 hp and **THE MOST AMOUNT OF TORQUE** at 403 nm.

It has the **LONGEST WHEELBASE, THE HIGHEST GROUND CLEARANCE, AND THE LARGEST FUEL TANK.** It has an **X-CROSS MEMBER LADDER-TYPE FRAME** – the equivalent of a full set of "ribs" on what is, essentially, a truck's skeleton. After all, even the strongest of weightlifters would fold under the strain if he lacked a few bones.

The Navara is **THE FIRST AND ONLY PICKUP EQUIPPED WITH A SIX-GEAR MANUAL TRANSMISSION.** In this breakthrough drivetrain design, five close-ratio lower gears bestow to a sports car's are topped by an overdrive gear for optimal efficiency in highway driving.

This unique six-speed configuration puts less strain on the engine, resulting in a simultaneous reduction of fuel consumption and engine emissions.

Take all that technology and infuse it with style that will give any SUV a run for its money. What you'll have is a winning formula, one that makes fans out of even the toughest critics.

Isn't it time you drove a real winner? Check out the Navara at your nearest dealership.

SportUtilityTruck Navara

ASC REF NO. UTI/479/2008/09

NAVARA

SHIFT...the way you move NISSAN

Visit www.mynissan.com.ph and www.nissan-navara.com.ph or text 0918-8NISSAN.

When love . . .

From page B6-1

taboo in most Filipino families, and there lies the difficulty, but the alternative is daily torture.

"I'll give you an example. When I was growing up, my brother always wore glasses because we all other parents. I didn't know you needed different kinds of shoes. So when I got married, I become a lifter when it came to money. My wife and children would complain because I would make them wear down all their shoes before I bought them new ones," Ferrera says with a chuckle.

Eventually, he and his wife came to an agreement. The best strategy, he said, was for Nannette to handle the purse-strings, but for Augusto to provide input before the money is spent.

"We agreed on a belief system. In the US, your money is yours and mine is mine. That doesn't work here. We operate on the idea that our money is everything is pooled so community money," Ferrera says.

Ferrera also answered common love-and-money questions.

● How do you handle the need to support extended relatives financially?

Situations like this can make a person feel like a rubber band. He or she is constantly pulled in different directions—toward the spouse or toward the extended family. The only way to deal with this is to talk about it and make sure expectations are clear.

● Should you recommend setting up separate or joint accounts? Or both?

There should be joint accounts for common expenses that need to be paid for by those accounts, but there should also be separate accounts because each one of you has personal aspirations for savings. What we shouldn't have are secret accounts. Those are not healthy for a relationship.

When it comes to marital finance, Ferrera says the most important thing is to have a sense of humor. That's more likely taken for granted, but it is very important.

(For more personal finance articles, visit Jo-garcon's Moneyfriend blog at http://blogs.inquirer.net/moneyfriend.)

Find the best bundle for you and your special someone.

Buy a MacBook* and add Php1499 to get an Airport Express.

+

+

Buy an iPod touch and get a Nike + Kit.

+ or

Buy an iPod nano and get a Nike + kit or add Php 199 to get a radio remote.

Visit our stores today and learn more about these ultimate Valentine's Day bundles*

Participating Apple Premium Resellers: Manila: [illegible] **Cebu:** [illegible] **Davao:** [illegible]

[illegible]

Corporate greed, corruption traced to shamelessness

BROKERS go about their business on the trading floor of the New York Stock Exchange. The "absence of a culture of shame," of which corporate greed is symptomatic, has brought the finance world to its knees.

Scams did more to erode investor confidence

By Ida Barbregan Alvarez
Contributor

THE RECENT MELTDOWN OF MANY companies and players in the services, manufacturing and electronics sectors in the country and the subsequent mass layoff of workers spawned by the economic downturn in the United States call to mind the issue of corporate scandals that shook the international business community in the last two decades.

For recent among these scandals involved Enron Corp., which was then one of the world's leading energy, pulp and paper, and communications companies, employing about 25,000 people. In 2001, it filed for bankruptcy in New York after auditors were found that it had concealed its debts, following its involvement in shady deals and fraud, and colluding with Arthur Andersen, its accounting firm. It turned out the many of the clerks and James Enron had narrowed through the 1990s were not reflected in its financial statements. Arthur Andersen was found guilty of obstruction of justice in 2002 for destroying documents related to the Enron audit.

Still recovering from the shock created by Enron, the business world was subjected to another scandal involving WorldCom, whose top executives admitted to committing a massive $3.8 billion clerical accounting fraud.

Similar cases

Here at home, one is reminded of the Dewey Dee affair in which the industrial magnate borrowed heavily in the commercial paper market in the 1980s and then fled the country, leaving behind a billion-peso debt and shrinking the market.

Remember Dinnie Tan and Hambly Hu? Adds Tom earning the ire of Church officials, they wound the living daylights out of top bankers and leaders of the Philippine Stock Exchange (PSE), which was left precariously perched on a new branch about to tank. The PSE later uncovered many buying and stock price manipulations by Tan, with minor investors incurring heavy losses.

It's a fact: Corrupt leaders are legion. Although these scams have eroded investor confidence, the greatest political incidents accumulation of monetary and material wealth is done by corporate greed and corruption which have sent financial markets out of whack.

Shame

The basic problem, says Philippine and author George Ramchen, lies in "an absence of a culture of shame," of which corporate greed is cruelly symptomatic.

He says that 90 percent of value is channeled to other corporate entities involves. "We are engrossed by our temporal absorptions and subconscious that we ignore moral and spiritual considerations. We think of shame as more than to think of sin," he says.

"Shame, no less than words like virtue, honor ... has become so empty-word, or just another expression used only for self-gratification by social and political vocabulary in which words often signify anything or nothing."

American writer Fred Flanigan looks at corruption in business and government in a different perspective. Writing for an American political party consumerism website, he says everyone wants to have financial security but this is impossible for us. It shouldn't be confused with the problem of greed.

"How many homes and cars are needed by one individual?" he asks. "When I hear political leaders talk about wrecking banks as people's business, I don't think they understand what 'working hard' means. To me, working hard is when a person choosing hard means all day in a construction wages, a real miner working in the coal mines all day, and parents working two jobs to support their family."

Obviously conscious of his own mortality and somewhat dreaming the complexities to accumulate by stealing, Flanigan says he thinks some people acquire great wealth because an author told them what they can't take it with them when they die.

"I think some people want all they can get in this life because they know they won't take it with them, so they want to get as much as they can while they are here," he adds.

Has pervasive political and corporate leaders can take with them, he says, is their good name—a legacy worth more than any material possession.

The writer couldn't agree more. Society desperately cries out for leaders who are honest, honorable and virtuous. But that's the subject of another article.

Be a Minute Burger Franchisee Now!

• Fast ROI • Affordable investment
• Over 200 Outlets Nationwide & expanding

Call us at:
Manila: 02-776-7740 • 02-7767339
Cebu: 032-345-4053• 032-344-4859
Davao: 082-244-0191 • 082-244-0192

Open Franchising in Bulacan and Pampanga
Visit our website: www.minuteburger.com
Multi Savap Resorts

Thoughts on Golf and Life

By Nagi Pantheraida

I THINK ANY GUY WHO SAYS THAT LIFE AS a corporate executive is hectic, pathetic can't find a[nything] harder to say. Who starts the sentence?

It was when I was in the middle of my pre-shot routine, while I folded my fingers into my "perfect grip". Focused as my heartbeat and concentrated my muscles into the perfect position, visualized how the ball would fly perfectly in the air and land right on target... and waggled my club perfectly (3 times for luck!), when I realized my back is reality with this unrelated commitment delivered with the utmost timing.

— But perfectly ruined my shot.

Kenneth, Marc and I started to ignore what Chris had said, and even if we gave on with an otherwise perfect day of golf. But since he had already opened a can of worms, it seemed fair picking them off the fairways once and for all, was the better option. Part of me wanted to tell him "You're fired, it's your world! Then just.

But I didn't. Because I knew he couldn't. In the same way I mean other than I was walking to hole 9 with, simply couldn't.

We all had to make a living, otherwise, known as starving—if

by 12 on most fairways day, trying to earn enough money to put food on the table, send the kids to exclusive schools, pay for the maintenance of the new house, the new car, the country club membership, and that Europe cruise we've seemingly promised the misses—and all those other things we have to do to make up for golf.

[illegible] to me. There were [illegible] my boss playing [illegible] from me into [illegible] clubs, riddled with [illegible] at work, or what-have-[illegible] we still continue to golf. So, that quiet weekend some person could set aside request to a shared game where a person would be late bring a ball as far as he could—only solution is afterwards.

Where the players go for lunch on and under the sweltering sun of the sun seven under wearing sun. So correct? And where he or even good to be seen the ball by me an unforgiving for individual supervisor isle in one perfect shot because of more impossible, but still, golfers try.

At this point, it's so easy for anyone to ask: What's the point?

But perhaps the best way to answer the question is to try the game itself. Because though a swing may seem effortless, numerous calculations have been at play. While other people see the manicured green, golfers see the subtle slopes and think of how they could affect how the ball would roll.

And while others may see a ball flying aimlessly in the air, in our heads we've already pictured where it would fall. Then plunge into a world of complexities of decision making as one can effort to focus on staying that perfect shot. It's a paradox that rewards us remarkably once you fall in love with the game.

It would've turned into a cover [illegible] Because we were [illegible] Marc, my optimist, who blurted out, "Well, we could just pick the ball up, shoot it in the hole and it'll all be over. But where's the fun in that?"

No one bothered to dig up the profound connection the made with were, or felt in general but for that moment, it was enough to let us enjoy the game once more.

IN THIS ISSUE
Ilocos Norte church set for demolition /E1
Museum-café houses pop memorabilia /D1

Editor Thelma Sioson San Juan Arts and Books Editor Lisa M. Zulueta
LIFESTYLE Arts & Books

How to turn affordable art into heirloom

It's never too late to start your own collection

By Jessie Marallah Yapinges
Contributor

AFTER LIVING IN A house filled with colors and art, I find myself in a striking-ly modern bare-walled apartment.

As a newlywed, there is a lot of counseling that goes on, and even more conditional advice that comes your way (however, no one ever tells you of the shock you are to experience waking up in a differently colored bedroom. I find I miss the old paintings that fill the walls of my parents' house, the same paintings I made up stories about as a child.

There was the Chinese screen with people harvesting cotton to spin into cloth that I had decided to curb my naive into (and got severely punished for).

There were Claudio Bravo's

HOW TO TURN O

His work takes on a variety of styles from Picasso to Tamayo, from naïf to tribal motif

"HAPPY Couple"

Blaine San Luis makes *old art new again*

By Constantino C. Tejero

SOMETHING THAT LOOKS OLD BUT is really new has come to our galleries. Billed as an exploration of naïf, expressionism and geometric abstractions, it is all that—with a recondite hark story.

It is simply called "The Art of Blaine San Luis," 40 pieces of oil on canvas, until Feb. 27 in Galerie Astra, 2/F, Suite 2203, UEI Design Plaza, 2316 Pasong Tamo St., Makati City.

San Luis took just a year of art studies in University of the Philippines in the early 1980s, but he made friends with older artists such as 2D dean and National Artist Jose Joya, Solomon Saprid, Antonio Malabuyo, Salvador Mendoza, Reinado Gallemit. Also, while living in Dallas for a time, he frequented the Museum of Modern Art.

He went through the requisite realism and impressionism of most ayos. Before going full-time into painting, he had been into real estate, antiques trading, even Japanese reproductions. Now 47, he is holding only his third solo exhibit.

San Luis acknowledges the influence of Cuban artist Rico Lebrun and Mexican painter Rufino Tamayo. In the five years he was working on the eleven (one on exhibit), he says he had traced the strong influence of the colors and forms of these two on the art of including Iranian and National Artists Arag Ekdesh and Victorio Manansala.

And, indeed, in his own paintings, one sees the bold colorists of Lebrun and the angular outline of Tamayo, plus the latter's merging of Mexican folk art and European styles such as surrealism, Expressionism and Cubism. In the process, San Luis' paintings have acquired a visual resemblance to those of Ekdesh and Manansala.

A case in point is Tamayo's "Woman with Red Mask," whose costume may be found in San Luis' "Mystery Woman" and in any female portrait by Ekdesh. While Tamayo's piece is to recondemore somewhere, Malong's deadly vaticinated, and San Luis' somewhere dually, in their graphic compositions and geometric forms they could very

"MAN IN Yellow"

"EMOTHICS"

well come from one man.

"Friends" takes on the angular forms and bright coloration of Malong's women workers blended with Picasso's African masks. (The Picassonesque tribal motif is repeatedly resonant in "Greetings.")

Many of these pieces bite at the triangular cubism and rich color interplay of Malong's murals, while "Man in Green," though lacking the spikiness of line, possesses the anguish of Ekdesh's human figure.

Others, San Luis exhibits a playful take on form. The two profiles in "Conversation," for instance, merge to become one face in "The Kiss" (like the two faces blending in Bergman's "Persona").

Two full-body profiles become one figure in "Man and His Shadow," while nude and female anatomies coalesce into one erotic form in "The Bathers."

San Luis declares his piquant with fine mind, and he does not use a brush for works directly with spatula and palette knife on the canvas. His account for his broad line and the emphasis of paint application, not banning the surface texture, solidity of form, depth of perspective, and a smokiness of color tone he has attained in trying to capture the effects of rain and wind on the walls of old houses.

Using only rudimentary implements, he has nevertheless achieved—from portraits, such as "Man in Yellow," to still life, such as "The White Table"—a subtlety of tone, imagery and composition.

"THE BATHERS"

MURAL BY BATANES ARTISTS GOES TO THE UN

National Commission for Culture and the Arts chair and Education Undersecretary Vilma Labrador and Presidential Assistant for the Arts Cecil Golden-Alcaraz present to Ambassador Hilario Davide, Philippine permanent representative to the UN, the mural on the United Nations Millennium Development Goals, a gift of the Philippine government to United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon. The mural was done by Batanes artists Richard Gonzales, Xavier Ababisko, Javier Perez and Jayson Furtao.

VISUAL ARTS

La Soufflé hosts 3-way exhibit

A grand three-way exhibit of aquarelles by Gilda Cordero-Fernando, bamboo and paper lamps by Wendy Pinglabel and naïf (child's) sculptures by Alma Quinto is forthcoming at La Soufflé, The Fort, Bonifacio Global City.

Fernando, who writes for the tabloids, began painting in late maturity. In his 40-piece exhibit, her subjects deal with mythical creatures, religious subjects, Pinoy-invented saints, people and events.

Gil Dit Cordero-Fernando

Twenty art lamps represent Bagobos, architect-horticulturist, and includes animals such as "Angry Red Cat," "Tae Fish," "Pisong Pig" and "Banana Tree with Heart." Eight soft sculpture interpretations, also of animals, are the participations of socially conscious artist Quinto, such as "Pasong Sotheegee," "Kambingan sa Bundok" and "Building Rocket."

"Between Universes" opens with cocktails on Feb. 12, 6:45-8:30 p.m., and will run until March 10.

BY EMMANUEL Garibay

Garibay at UPLB

Emmanuel Garibay's "Reunion" will open Feb. 11, 3 p.m., at Gining Meeting Art Gallery (GL Umali Hall, University of the Philippines-Los Baños, Laguna). Guests of honor are Filemon Velasco, Perry Dingcong Edward Perez. The show is in connection with the 20th Centennial and will run until March 20.

Garcia at Ricco Renzo

Arnel Garcia presents "Transitions," featuring abstract and figurative paintings based on his long sojourn in Italy. The exhibit runs until Feb. 15 at Ricco Renzo Galleries & Cafe, G/F UEI Design Plaza 2316 Pasong Tamo St., Bel-Air II, Makati City). Call 8182949 or 0907-9861460 or visit www.riccorenzo.com.

Ilonggo artists at Crave

"Tiga-Alon," a group exhibit featuring Ilonggo artists and printers of Iloilo, is on view till Feb. 21 at Crave Art Gallery, Crave Restaurant, Smallville, Diversion Road, Mandaluyong, Iloilo City.

"A STRANGER," by Allan Habib

Akasaren, Pasquino at Finale

Jose Akasaren and Bernardo Pasquino team up for a show on view at the Tall Gallery of the Finale Art Gallery (Warehouse 17, La Fuerza Compound, 2241 Pasong Tamo, Makati City) until Feb. 7. Through his installations, Akasaren explores the conceptual properties of everyday objects such as cast shopping baskets and mirrors, creating carefully orchestrated works that feature a delicate and palpable vulnerability.

BY JUAN Akasaren

Pasquino paints a wooden panel with his wildly imaginative canvases steeped in his signature childlike strokes in the spirit of abstract expressionism, showing the discourse inherent in the creative process. Anchoring the exhibit is his installation that features an assembly of geometrically positioned strings knotting with feathers and emerging from a canvas canvas with lines—a metaphorical feature to what the exhibit represents.

Cohesion in their experimental attitude and oppositional in their viewpoints, works of Akasaren and Pasquino vibrate with conceptual energy and deliver a glimpse of the shape of things to come. Visit www.finalefineart.com.

Seas at Crucible

Fernando Cena is holding a show of portraits, "Bodies, Still Lifes," in Crucible Gallery at Old Megamall. Cena's works depict solid forms, but all narrative details rendered in deep and clear hues. He uses pastel-refined inhibition, blending one shade with another, giving rise to a symphony of colors. Call 6350001.

BY FERNANDO B. Sena

"DRYSLOW"

Jigger Cruz at Blanc

Stimulated by the idea of repetitive motions, of the rollicking movement of back and forth, "Swing," Jigger Cruz's first solo exhibition revolves around geometric translations of rhythmic swaying gestures. The works, a suite of textures and forms that situate well within similar past works of Cruz, are born from his exercises of the composition of cyclical gestitude.

The show runs at Blanc Gallant (Corner Street, 139 N.V. de la Costa St., Salcedo Village, Makati City). Call or SMS 913-6820/0920-8276436, e-mail info@blanc.ph or visit www.blanc.ph and www.blancwhitespace.multiply.com.

Artists 'deconstruct' love in Valentine's show

JUNO PARUNGAO, JEREMY MALCAMPO, Ivan Carlo Banit, Alden Aanaria, Liezl Buenaventura and Lito Cuenca are holding a group show, "Deconstructing Love," at ARTHO on Orio Roxberry Arcade, Antonio Luna, Cubao, Feb. 12-March 5.

Parungao of La Consolacion College in Manila applies her extensive knowledge of the "first card in "Love, a Force of Nature."

Malcampo's abstraction reflects his dynamic personality as collage, painter and teacher. A food critic of the Manila Bulletin, he is gourmet instructor of Barrolo Café of La Consolacion.

In "Love Soul Stones," art director Banit employs his multimedia skills.

Aanaria, a history instructor at De La Salle-College of St. Benilde, focuses on

"BIRTH of Hope"

mythological loves and chaos in his oeuvre. "The Love Within: Homage to the Inner Archetype."

Buenaventura's "Shakespeare Is Universal" applies classic Shakespearean themes in a modern Asian setting. A graphic designer, Buenaventura is a graduate of UP Fine Arts.

Cuenca's "Perversities of Love" tackles "the ever-morphing dialectics of the word." Cuenca is a well-known theatre film practitioner. He is chair of the Department of Languages and Mass Communication and director for performing arts and applied digital media arts of La Consolacion.

"Deconstructing Love" opens Feb. 12 with cocktails at 7 p.m. Call 0921-5535665.

"THIS Whatsit"

"THE SANDWASON"

Jana Benitez defines 'parameters' of art

By Jerome Gomez
Contributor

FROM top: "Seasons," "Aspire" and "Diaspora"

IT IS EASY TO ASSUME, before one meets 23-year-old Jana Benitez and her works, that here is another rich kid who wants to be an artist but can't draw a bead. Whose parents come from money and know friends in high places who can buy her entire gallery of works.

She is the daughter of former Manila mayor Jolly Benitez and Joanne de Asis, a wildly successful investment banker. The second statement may be true, but the New York-based Jana is far from being a con-cubine.

At 12, she had her first exhibition at Ayala Museum. At 14, in her second solo show at the Peninsula Manila, she was doing abstract Expressionism and showed portraits inspired by Picasso's distorted faces.

In fact, when we visited her in the old Benitez house, and were ushered by the artist into the veranda that temporarily served as a studio while she was in town and preparing for a show, her large-scale abstractions revealed a young painter's assured sense of strategy and a sophistication beyond her years.

Indeed, Jana has come a long way from drawing on the violet walls of her Park Avenue bedroom as a 9-year-old. She graduated May last year with magna cum laude honors from Brown University, where she took up Liberal Arts majoring in Fine Arts and Intellectual History.

She flew in from New York last December to spend the holidays in Manila and was urged to stay longer than usual. The Benitezes hold a big Christmas party every year, but this time, to spruce up the old Ilonian bunkers a bit, Jana decided she would turn the house into a gallery of sorts.

While the intention was not totally to sell but put a little energy in the house's rather gloomy setting, before the party was over, Jana had sold P50,000 worth of her works, including her early abstracts and her poignant portraits of Philippine life. Close family friends, mostly members of Manila's privileged set, came and were fairly drawn to the paintings.

'Parameters'

Nix Salcedo of Finale Art File was one of the guests, and it so happened that an artist had backed out from her gallery's February lineup. Jaremar asked Jana if she would agree to show in Finale's huge new space in Pasong Tamo.

"It's serendipitous," Jana says of the opportunity.

Despite her commitment to a couple of exhibits back to back in New York, the artist rolled up her sleeves and started working.

The show, "In Search of Parameters," opens Feb. 12 and will present the artist's existing larger works and pieces she began working on since scrapping the Finale invite. While her pure abstractions fit Manila dealers with portraits, she started working with images only recently.

"It began a few years back, when my style exploded, so to speak," she says.

On a larger canvas, she says, the process becomes more exciting. "It becomes an event."

Tall, lithe and athletic, possessed with her wealth as she confidently thinks ahead, these traits of Jana are reflected in the scale of her work. The challenge of the rounds, she says, is to create the same kind of intimacy present in her small pieces.

"Defining the physical parameters just become very interesting. Because now it's painting with your whole body, dancing on the canvas. It becomes an encounter, a stage to act upon."

The resulting works are energetic and at the same time meditative. Which could perhaps stem from the fact that she hasn't really been painting in months and was merely doing ink drawings.

Also, she did a lot of meditation after graduating from Brown, immediately flying off to China for martial-arts training, which took four months. "So, yeah, I have a lot of bulked-up energy."

How to turn affordable art into heirloom

From page C1

novels in the bathroom first I compared my novel to, as well as several other paintings that served as the illustrations for my favorites.

It's sure dues for me to start any real art collection, albeit with a smaller budget and not as many walls to fill. The secret is to find paintings that will be a good investment without blowing the bank.

If you are looking to start collecting art, here are a few general guidelines that should help when looking for a "starter" piece of art. Here's hoping that my selections will decorate the imaginations of a future generation.

• *Find something that you like.* As simple as it sounds, it's absolutely true. You need to like what you are spending your money on and like waking up to it every day. Don't buy works purely for investment, that you would not keep for yourself.

• *Look up the successful young artists.* Auction houses like Christie's and Sotheby's often list the artists they are auctioning along with the price range for the auction. If you are a particular artist you like, take note of their names and ask the owner at your local gallery. You will also get an idea of how much the painting will appreciate. Those artists who have drowned on the South East Asian circuit are also good investments. Ask the galleries for lists of shows the artist has participated in.

• *Art does not have to match your couch or curtains.* A great piece of art can become the focal point of the room if selected carefully and does not have to match every color in the room.

• *Follow the rule of proportion.* Theories behind what is called "the golden mean" say the human eye calculates beauty through mathematical proportion: the more proportioned, the more beautiful. Even abstract art follows the rule of proportion. No matter what the subject is, more often than not, a good work of art is balanced on the canvas. If you find this to the work you are interested in, you are in good hand.

• *Head to the backrooms.* When you go to a gallery don't think all is lost if you missed a show opening. Most galleries have great selections in the backrooms, with plenty of choices.

• *Set a budget.* Many artists these days paint on very large canvases that run to the hundreds of thousands. But you can get good pieces for about P70,000 and which are of a moderate size. This will make it easier for you to find space in your house and will be easier to resell in the future.

• *Look out the shade.* If you plan on preserving paintings for the next generation, you must be by hanging them away from direct sunlight which fades the paint. Also, if your place tends to get damp, hang the painting on an "in-between" wall that does not face the outside. Chances are, the moisture may seep through your walls and ruin your painting.

• *Take a risk.* If you see something you like, whether the artist is known or not, take a chance without blowing your budget. It could be worth something one day. If it turns out not to be, take it as a lesson in what not to buy and learn more about the particular genre and medium that you like. All great collectors have a room full of bad choices!

Agang Maganda's Valentine art

"Bandang Wagas"

AN EXHIBIT OF THE NEW works of Agang Maganda, "Wasko," will open at Serenity's Up Interiors and Antiques today. Show runs till Feb. 22.

Baguio-based artist Agang paints, reunites music and writes poetry. What he calls his continuing quest for meaning and enlightenment is evident in this exhibition.

Art lovers must not miss this collection which the right-handed artist painstakingly completed using his left hand. Written at the back of each canvas is a poem inspired by his daughter, Ika.

Serenity's Up is at A. Venue Mall, Makati Avenue, Makati City (across Great Eastern Hotel, Aberdeen Court).

Call 7560346 or 0917-8043405.

"Bandang Wagi"

GE Money Bank
A Savings Bank
HOME LOANS

Dream Home with a Great View

Apply for a GE Money Bank Home Loan from February 9 to April 30, 2009 and get a free LCD TV for every approved and availed Home Loan.

This is simply better banking.
This is GE Money Bank.

Call us at (02) 777 8500
or visit www.gemoneybank.com.ph

WESTERN

GE imagination at work

AKALA MO BA, MALINIS KA NA?

Kapag nag-Fiber ka, malinis ka na ba?
Kapag nag-Laxative ka, malinis ka na ba?

MARAMI ANG NALI ANG AKALA. Marami ang hindi regular ang bowel movement sa maghapon ng dumi ng isang katawan. Mayo nito pag umiinom ng FIBER o LAXATIVE, sustansiya rin.

NALI.

Magsalamuha ang mga nutrisyon at kemikapati na dumi sa isang matatinas. MUCOID PLAQUE ang black sludge that gradually build up into unnatural level. Ilink masyado ito sustansiya created by the body in an effort to protect itself from unhealthy foods, stress, drugs, pesticides, etc. This substance may accumulate until it is several inches thick and reaches the entire length of the stomach, small intestines and colon.

KAPAG NAPABAYAAN... This layer of mucoid plaque prevents the body from properly assimilating vitamins, minerals and food nutrients. It will **lead to DECAY & FERMENTATION & PUTREFACTION, slowly poisoning our organs,** leading to all kinds of lethal diseases.

FIBER HEALTH™ a powerful natural tri-1 combination of **FIBER-LAXATIVE-PROBIOTICS. FIBERHEALTH™** is formulated to support our body needs to eliminate waste. It provides the cleansing action of **ENZYMES & FIBER,** and offers undigested waste that is harmless bacterial flora without upsetting the good bacteria.

La **FIBERHEALTH™** walang lalagyan!

Available at all mercury drug and other leading drugstores nationwide.

FOR INQUIRIES HOTLINE TEXT: 0927-2046480

City multiple in the art of Ina Caparas

By Gary C. Orolfo
Contributor

MODERN ART BY DEFINITION is avant-garde, challenging existing forms while at the same time advocating change and creativity.

In Ina Caparas' "City Life," which opens Feb. 11 in Gallery Nine, modernist themes become the underlying principles and motifs.

"Top of the World" and "Multiplicity" tell us how modernity appropriates space. As our primordial space of habitation gives way to the buildings depicted in these works, we see ourselves appropriated and transformed from dwellers to workers in the grand machinery of production.

Such transformation is not necessarily easy and turning as the warm colors used in "Top" suggest, but can also be bleak and cold as hinted in the black-and-white rendition of "Multiplicity."

Both works depict skyscrapers in iconic fashion, as these buildings can be considered monuments of our creativity, but they can also be our bane, our subjection to the state of manipulation and control of the capital.

"Top" connotes not only the exhilaration but the vertigo these structures condition us to be.

"NIGHTLIFE"

"NIGHT Market" and "Multiplicity"

However, the city is not just the infrastructure or the buildings but the people who make such city livable.

In "Chinatown," "Night Market," "The Parade" and "Night Life," Ina depicts the silhouettes that unveil the city with an acute awareness of existing to be herded down and worn out by any socio-technological mechanism.

Man, after all, has to wage war against overwhelming natural forces for their existence, preserving autonomy and individuality. The latter participates and is always burdened by street life and yet he displays a critical attitude toward the suffocating speed and anonymity of modern life in the city.

"Chinatown," "The Parade" and "Night Life" are colorful renditions of the leader's aversion.

"Haze" and, to some extent, "Night Market" tell another story. Here the idler becomes the solitary walker striking, creating the urban milieu...the voyeur who discovers the city as a landscape of existence.

Caparas' rendition of the city becomes an inquiry into the inner meaning of the soul of our cultural body.

"City Life" runs until Feb. 22 at Gallery Nine (39 Jill Megaville).

"THE PARADE"

Phapus Dizon Torralba comes to her own

SINCE SHE WAS young, Phapus Dizon Torralba's world has been affected by colors. She drew much inspiration from her dad, painter Jeff Dizon.

But she has carved her own separate identity. Choose Expressions Gallery in Jupiter Street in Makati is exhibiting her new works.

Choice owner Bing Veloso describes Phapus' collection as autobiographical, a reflection of her life and the people connected to her.

"My works are portraits of my close friends, my family, my dogs, my daily activity with my daughter, and, of course, the places we've been," says Phapus.

"Shell Seeker" depicts a promising future. Phapus draws the peaceful scene between mother and child, perhaps a reflection of the artist's own life as a mother.

"In Commemorating Three" draws a family.

"Night Greetings" is a picture of a mother and daughter bonding over raven dreams.

"Tinsel Point Beach" is a fond reminiscence of the artist's travels.

Choice Expression Gallery is at 2/F Constantcon Bldg., 121 Jupiter St., Bel-Air, Makati City. Call 890-0237 and 899-3716. Visit www.choiceexpressions.com.

"BOOO ... Deep Slumber"

"AUTUMN"

LIFESTYLE Arts Books

OBSESSIONS

A museum-café of pop culture

By Dexter R. Marilla
Contributor

THERE WAS A TIME WHEN Manila used to be one huge playground.

There were less cars on the streets, theme-driven cafeses were one of the major entertainment alternatives. Every once in a while, you'd get a glimpse of us as used as a residential house by a rendez of household helpers.

It was a time businessman Crispin Go knows all too well. He was living in a beautiful Manila that had just survived the war but was soon drifting.

Go's worries then—if they could be described as worries—were very simple: going

A PERSON'S LIFE IS

La Scala museum-resto collection by Crispin Go

Since the 1950s, businessman Crispin Go has built a vast collection of pop culture memorabilia. You can now enjoy the collection at La Scala in Malate

GARFIELD — By Jim Davis

A. LIPIN — BY JOJO ABRERA

FUSSO BUDDY — BY PH. JUNIOR

DICK TRACY

LOVEKNOTTE — BY ELIZABETH CHICHOCO

JAMES BOND — BY KEN SCOTT

DIVINE COMEDY — BY STEVEN PABALINAS

BABY BLUES — BY JERRY SCOTT

ATOMO AND WEBBY — BY LISA GARCELLANO

RUDOK — BY MARA COLL

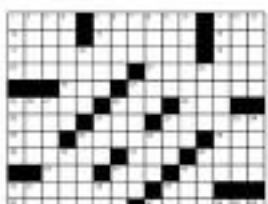
BIRD MACHINE — BY MAAR ABREN

BEN — BY DANIEL SHELTON

DAILY CROSSWORD

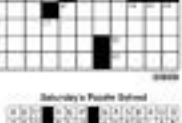
ACROSS
1 Chess defeat
5 Ebb-and-flow passage
11 Sanguine (Lat.)
14 Pretty ___ Bikini
15 Former Bridgeton
16 Roadside cross
17 Fuss
18 Kinkade, artist
20 Accommodates
21 Bobbin, like a snake
22 Knish
24 Mineral deposits
25 Harvest machine
26 Sit up
27 Grassy spot
30 Dissect for diagnosis
31 Tax return
33 Sort of screen
36 Like some gas
38 Flowers
39 Tomato, to Livia
40 Compromise
41 Weapons at Area 51
42 Propensity
43 Photocopier, e.g.
44 Bites or stings
45 Point here or there
46 Saint Petersburg
49 Bonds to form
50 Nuisance user
51 Needle-to-yarn connection
52 Pinnacle
53 Pressure plant
56 Poetic nature
57 Common name
58 Humor weapon
61 Rudeness, slangily
62 Bottle-bottom glass
63 Tempo
64 Tomato, to Livia

DOWN
1 Dumpy shoe (Brit.)
2 Mad Bess's spouse
3 Mr. Jaffe from Thomas
4 Actor Rooney
5 Rich Rockefeller
6 Pennsylvania port
7 Computer-printing aid
8 Tribes
9 Rules-signs
10 Dismissed
11 Dismissed
12 Computer-printing aid
13 Tribes
19 Rules-signs
23 Dismissed
28 Dismissed
29 Dismissed
31 Dismissed
32 Dismissed
34 Dismissed
35 Dismissed
37 Dismissed
38 Dismissed
40 Dismissed
41 Dismissed
43 Dismissed
44 Dismissed
46 Dismissed
47 Dismissed
48 Dismissed
49 Dismissed
50 Dismissed
51 Dismissed
52 Dismissed
53 Dismissed
54 Dismissed
55 Dismissed
56 Dismissed
57 Dismissed
58 Dismissed
59 Dismissed
60 Dismissed



By Fred Piscop
Celebrity, NYC

Saturday's Puzzle Solved



HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCES DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY You're creative, original and inventive. You work hard but play hard, too. You need variety and thrive on freedom. Many of you have new leads for others to follow. Until you're 49, you're ruled by Mars and Uranus, the planets of energy, action and initiative. Your birthstone is ruby. Those born today include Jennifer Aniston, Sarah Vaughan, Jacques Cousteau, Mike Wallace and Tito Puente.

ARIES (March 21 to April 20) Today's Full Moon could create problems if you're not careful. Be extra cautious when dealing with children or participate in any sports (even recreational or amateur). Patience is the key.

TAURUS (April 21 to May 20) The Full Moon in your sign is the best time to show off your talents and to assert yourself. Try to keep an open mind, but don't let others push you around. Tell it like it is.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) This is an excellent day for you to expand your horizons. Get involved in a class, join a club or start a new hobby. Be open to new ideas, but avoid risky behavior.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) You want to take a back seat at work or in a romance. Even if you don't always like what's going on, it's best to keep your mouth shut. Don't interfere in what others are doing. Concentrate on improving yourself.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22) Today is the ideal time to get out and socialize. Put those old rose-colored glasses on and look at the world through them. Exaggerate a little, if you must. Patience is the antidote to anger.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22) Obligations at work or with coworkers could take precedence over today's activities. You might want to do one thing while others want to be something else. Be open to compromise.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Be extra polite with friends or groups that you're associated with. Today's full Moon could exacerbate issues with those relationships. Others are sensitive.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) A creative endeavor looms and you're ready to get started. Astrological aspects make it easier for you today. According to the stars, you're a natural for the spotlight, or behind-the-scenes work. Be flexible.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) This is a good day to get involved in your favorite hobby or sport. Ideas for you. Take advantage of it all you can. Let's communicate in all you do today. Be open to new ideas. Get involved.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19) Think twice before making major purchases today, especially in the afternoon and evening. Don't let others make up your mind. Act for you. Hold your own mind. Have confidence.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18) Today is the only full Moon during the month of Aquarius. Use the emotional tension with partners and close friends. Pay close attention.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20) Romantic encounters might make dramatic changes in your life today. People are a bit frustrating, so it is the full Moon's influence. Important decisions are in evidence.

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

Conceptis SudoKu

By Dave Green

	1		7	9			2	
2			6		3			7
		3				5		
	9		5		7		8	6
8			1		2			9
3	2		4		9		5	
		4				9		
6			9		8			5
	7			4	6		3	

Difficulty Level ★

©2009 Conceptis Puzzles, Inc. Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every solution, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.

Tips and programs at www.sudoku.com

Answer to previous puzzle

9	1	3	7	4	2	6	5	8
8	5	4	1	6	3	9	2	7
2	6	7	8	9	5	4	3	1
1	3	9	2	8	6	5	7	4
6	7	8	5	1	4	2	9	3
5	4	2	3	7	9	1	8	6
7	2	6	9	3	1	8	4	5
3	9	1	4	5	8	7	6	2
4	8	5	6	2	7	3	1	9

CRISPIN Cervinio daughter Cristine, showing to Elvis Tracy Club membership certificate, which he got when he was eight

A museum-café...

Pass page B1

to school, collecting (and le sage, buying comic books and listening to music.

Go grow up listening to the likes of Elvis Presley, Cliff Richard, Paul Anka, Neil Sedaka and Johnny Mathis, and be was a junior detective on Elvis Tracy (he even has a certificate to prove it).

At 62, he recalls all of these as if they were freshly brewed memories. Perhaps it helps that he keeps pieces of these years around him, in his home, in his office, and all over La Isola Café, a restaurant in Makati he runs with his daughter Christine.

There, ostensibly to try stir of nostalgia inside the safe, flows of LP records to vinyl line the walls. The room is broke from Cri's youth are kept to raise conviction and so, display in glass cases Cri himself designed.

The Isola cups? He exchanged those for miniature Coca-Cola bottles that were the rage during his youth.

Listing down all that Cri has collected would seem like an exercise in futility because, as Christine reveals, "There's more at home."

But recalls one European trip of her father. Cri had purchased a sculpture and was on his way back to the Philippines. He bought a first-class seat on the plane for the piece because he wanted to make sure it was safe.

NEWSPAPER from page showing Dimitalde Macapagal's inaugural in 1961

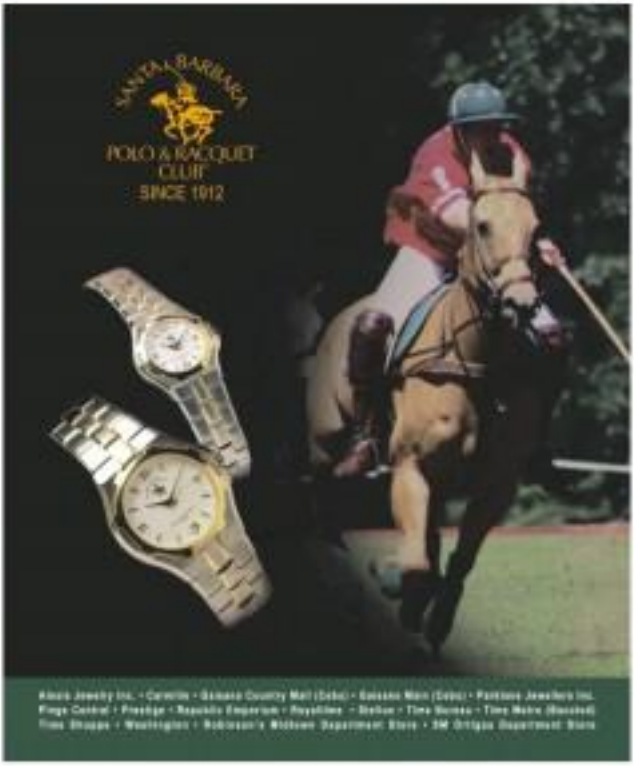
From Avenida to Makati

La Isola Café was named after Isola Grocery which Cri's father—a Chinese immigrant from Fujian province—owned. It was in turn named after Scala Theater on Rizal Avenue and the spot's lesser La Scala in Milan.

Ale and Ilito, Cri Jr/Christine then decided to move their home and business to its current location at 1715 M. Adriatico St., near the corner of Gen. Malvar Street. Cri recalls growing up on the same second floor of the building, which housed the bar/room, dining room and suite.

Today La Isola features a main dining area, a bar and two VIP rooms—the enclosed Cri-chanon room that has a monopo.

ANTIQUES CAFÉ B2



OLD COMIC books in mint condition

COVERS of old vinyl albums of Elvis Presley, Cliff Richards, Paul Anka, Pat Boone

DOLLS of Brown Women and Kate, Dick Tracy, Batman

A museum-café of pop culture

Viewpage D5

per clipping of President Diosdado Macapagal being sworn in with a very young Gloria Macapagal at his side; and the Balcony room, which also doubles as a karaoke room overlooking Adriatico St.

In the main area, music from the yesteryears is played every night. There is the occasional showing of concerts by the musical greats, and upon the request of customers, even oldies films.

Among Go's collections, there are a few that are fairly recent, like a signed LP and concert ticket of Cliff Richards. Go fighting, perhaps from his own amusement, when he tells the story of how he acquired Richards' signature, starting with finding out the hotel where Richards was staying in.

Go brought his LP and ticket to the Manila hotel where he waited at a coffee shop. After some time, Go was eventually able to get the help of one of the staff, whom he asked to bring the record and ticket to Richards' room.

Richards obliged the request and signed the memorabilia. But Go didn't stop there.

"I wanted to have something that I could show as proof that it was Richards who signed it," Go narrates. "So I waited until he came down and I asked to have a picture taken with him."

Richards' secretary would not have any of it, however, despite the artist having already given his approval. Go was only allowed one shot.

"I was worried that since I was only allowed to take one picture, it may come out blurry," he says.

But the picture came out okay and, along with the signed LP and concert ticket, is now one of the few items customers would see when they enter La Isola.

Museum-cum-resto

At first, Go admits he had to convince Christine, who was at the time working as a fashion merchandiser for Stores Specialists Inc., to manage the restaurant full-time.

Christine was already taking care of the place part-time, which, seeing how the staff responded to her, made it all the easier for her to accept the job. She adds it was also her way of showing duty and respect to her father.

Christine now looks very comfortable as the manager of La Isola. She comes up with new things to keep the place interesting. She also has a hand in what makes it in the menu, such as the popular Paella Valenciana and a variety of choices from steak to pasta to sandwiches.

Running a restaurant that doubles as a mini-museum is definitely taxing for Christine.

"Importing great things entails a lot of responsibilities," she says. "We are continuously changing and we always offer something new, which is probably why customers keep coming back. We find ways to make the experience worthwhile."

Christine understands the pressure it takes to watch over her father's collection. She says she is willing to hold on to them.

"One of my goals is to expand," she says. "It may not be another La Isola but a concept establishment where I can showcase my father's more expensive and significant collections. With the kinds of things my father purchases, such as keychains from all over the world, it would be a good investment to set up a medium-sized pop museum that can educate visitors."

Go says it is no longer matters to him if anything happens to his collections. There was a time before when he would be worried about every single piece. Now he is at peace, knowing his family and friends have been and always will be there for him.

"None of my collections can equate the value of what they give me," Go says. "I will not be able to bring these things when I'm gone. I'm satisfied with what I've accomplished, and every piece satisfied with the love and loyalty I've been given. Not too many can say this."

La Isola Café is at 2/F Hargens Building, 1711 M. Adriatico St. cor. Gen. Manuel St., Malate, Manila. For reservations, please call 4366938 and 3036789. Email at info@laisola.com.

E-mail the author at dsmallcat@yahoo.com.

Congratulations to the winners of Holiday Treats from Visa!

Keep using your Visa card, and watch for future promotions!

VISA All it takes.

COKE collection

MINIATURE cameras

CAN a new reproduction capture the authentic craftsmanship and materials that the ruined Dingras Church boasts has today?

HERITAGE ALERT

Another ancient structure in Ilocos Norte set for demolition

The church façade of Dingras will be demolished and replaced by a fake

ONLY THE FAÇADE survives of the ruined church of Dingras in Ilocos Norte. A shed was constructed within the ruined walls behind the surviving façade to serve as today's church.

But even the original façade is now to be demolished to give way to construction of a new church that will reconstruct a replacement of the demolished façade rather than conserve the original.

National Heritage organizations, the International Council for Monuments and Sites (Icomos) Philippines and the Heritage Conservation Society have been informed of the development.

Architect Manuel Montes-Lopez del Castillo-Noche, a faculty member of the College of Architecture at UST, HCS director and member of Icomos Philippines, gives his assessment:

"Marcos have come again [sometimes] for thousands of historic structures in the country. More alarming is that the church happens almost simultaneously in the same province, Ilocos Norte.

"Next is the planned demolition of Laoag Central High School, a perfectly usable, intact and beautiful example of 1930s

SEE PAGE E2

PRIDE OF PLACE

Augusto F. Villalon

UST Architecture marks 79th year

THE COLLEGE OF ARCHITECTURE OF the University of Santo Tomas will hold its 79th-anniversary general alumni homecoming on Feb. 21 at Plaza Mayor fronting the classic UST Main building. Registration starts at 2 p.m.

Fabularios are: Batch '59 (Golden), Batch '69 (Ruby), Batch '79 (Pearl) and Batch '84 (Silver).

For inquiries, call the UST Architecture Deans Office at 7314301 or 4063411 local 8225. Or log on to http://www.architecturealumniassociation.wordpress.com, http://www.groups.yahoo.com/neo1/aaust.com.

THE PPO has opened its new season with a concert under its former conductor, the Italian Reggero Barbieri.

Wanted: New PPO conductor

By Pablo S. Tariman
Contributor

Eugene Castillo's contract was not renewed and he has gone back to the US. Now, the PPO is again contemplating recruiting a foreign conductor

IT IS HIGH TIME. CCP IS AT A crossroads and projecting a new life. Its previously so-called elitist image has been refurbished with programs for the masses that have parallels with the "poverty alleviation thrust" of the NCCA.

Its theater company has been increasing top five-star productions and its Filipino Artists series continues to introduce and promote new talents.

Or, its own, the Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra has been associated with distinguished conductors and brilliant soloists. Its "golden" days were largely associated with Herbert Zipoli, Van Cliburn and our own Cecile Licad.

We have produced star soloists, but nothing to the past and recent concerts augur well for the coming of a star conductor. The recession is in the process of luring a new conductor after Eugene Castillo's contract was not renewed. [he's now back in the US]. The choice, according to the grapevine, has narrowed to either an American or a Russian-born conductor.

That we cannot get a Filipino to be PPO musical director is reflective of the dearth of good conductors in the country. Or is it reflective of the notion that Filipino musicians are better off led by a foreigner than by one of their own?

At any rate, we caught up with the recent engagement of PPO's former musical director Reggero Barbieri in a New Year event called "Glimpses of Europe." The concert, in the CCP president pass it, celebrates a "world without borders, without limitations of race or class, without economic, social or political barriers."

For this programming, the CCP advanced edges the collaborative support of the embassies of the United States, Italy, Spain,

WANTED E2

Seeing ghosts and bending time with Tony Perez

By Walter Ang
Contributor

TONY PEREZ IS POPULARLY KNOWN as the founder of the Spirit Questors, a group of populists who "communicate with earthbound human spirits and elementals in an attempt to negotiate for the peaceful coexistence with human beings."

He is also known as the author of a series of books on how to cast spells and get rid of various rituals.

Perez, artist segment for the movie "Shake, Rattle and Roll VI," (Students from De La Salle University-Manila, St. Sebastian's College and Ateneo de Manila University take Queer lord Sakam as a professor) knows of his passion for semotics.

Aside from being a poet, painter, graphic designer, illustrator, art therapist and fabric artist (by way of knitting), he is also known as a prolific playwright whose works are constantly staged by professional and collegiate groups.

Given his background, it is no wonder that his play "Saan ka Tayo Ihahatid ng Disyembre," to be staged by Philippine Educational Theater Association (Peta) this month, has been billed as a "ghost play."

Peta's 'Saan ba Tayo Ihahatid ng Disyembre' reunites the playwright-Spirit Questor with director Nonon Padilla

Metaphysical

It revolves around Lalahi (alternately played by Sukieser Mowlaina and Jaclı Titled) and his Ibong Lahiki (played by Lee Marrero) and their love affair with the same woman, Bahay Ortega Reyes), who is torn between her feelings for the two.

There are the characters comprising "five generations of the Jirrell clan as they attempt to complete the unfinished painting of their Lola, on the condition that it must be done only by an artist who has married into their fold."

But there is a fourth entity, Ina Ibong Dalisay, who has, as Perez artistic director Maribel Legarda describes, "manyayari, dinmaderet and dinirevelation sendweche."

Perez is quick to note that "Dimensions" "is not just about ghosts; it is really more about elements of time and space manipulation, in that time is simultaneous in this play it's very metaphysical."

Trilogy

It is actually the last of "Salahan ng Mga Pares," a trilogy Perez has written, the first two being "Dilidili, Noong Unay Nagmumahalan Pa" and "Sobyetniks, Noong Akala Kay Mahal Kita." Both were staged at the Cultural Center of the Philippines in the '90s.

Last year, Perez won the National Book Award for Drama for another trilogy of plays he'd written, collectively titled "Tatlong Dighaldaldag," it includes "Bambilya," "Binabaing Tilmog" and "Sa Bintli Ulyanisis Hotel." The last was adapted into a film in 2005 by Ilumina Marasigan.

The overarching theme for all three plays is "isolation" is liberality, love and compassion despite complications of betrayal, jealousy and angst.

"There are two men and one woman in the first play, two women and one man in the second play," Perez says. "In 'Dimensions,' the characters all have one present, two males and two females. All three plays are about making decisions."

Challenge

While there is no need for audiences to have seen the first two plays since each of the three functions as an independent play, the fun (or challenge) for audiences in watching this third installment is the device of "time and space manipulation" employed by Perez.

"The first act is set in the 1960s and ghosts from the future (2008) are in the same setting as the characters. In the second act, that is reversed and the ghosts from the 1960s are now with the characters in 2008. All the characters are superimposed on one another," he says. "It's now the job of the audience to determine who is who."

Perez has been writing plays since he was in high school at Aurora de Iliamla Universidad.

His first Tagalog play saw its one-line invitation while he was in fourth grade. Ironically it became "Ang Bonet, Tinimang ka Nic Lumuggelin Ang Gising Ka Pa Pala" when he reached high school, and was staged by Delaang Silvio in 1967.

He was also involved for many years with Ateneo Children's Theater, starting out as "a peanuter designer" until he became its resident playwright.

While "Dimensions" was only recently committed to paper, Perez notes it has always been fully formed in his mind; it was just a matter of timing until it could be written out and, finally staged.

"Dimensions" will be directed by Nonon Padilla. The collaboration is familiar ground for Perez since both he and Padilla started out as young artists working closely with Peta.

Save for attending rehearsals to tweak some dialogue ("I adjust the lines to follow the speech patterns of the actors"), Perez trusts Padilla's choices completely "I have no problems with his direction."

"Saan ka Tayo Ihahatid ng Disyembre" runs from Feb. 6-March 15. For details, call 415-5823 or 0918.936.4083. Email peta.pre@yahoo.com.

NONON PADILLA

TONY PEREZ

FROM BOOK TO FILM

Secrets revealed in 'Life of Bees'

By Jordan Mari S. de Leon
Contributor

ADAPTED FROM SUE MONK KIDD'S BESTselling novel of the same title, "The Secret Life of Bees" tells an emotional tale of racism and the search for harmony set after the enactment of the American Civil Rights Act of 1964, which prohibited racial discrimination and segregation in all forms.

Lily Owens (Dakota Fanning) is a 14-year old girl whose only memory of her mother is that she accidentally shot herself to death when Lily was very young. She is further consumed by her abusive father, Terrence Ray "T. Ray" Owens (Paul Bettany), who takes out his aggression on her and makes Lily's mother abandoned her and only turns back for her clothes on the day she died.

Determined to find out the truth, Lily runs away with her black caregiver and only friend, Rosaleen Daise Grandier (Jodi Smit), who got beaten up by three white men after attempting to register to vote, in Tiburon, South Carolina, where Lily discovers in the place that holds the only clue to her mother's past.

They land on the doorstep of August Boatwright (Queen Latifah), a black woman who generously takes them in and agrees to let them help around the house and the bee farm, which produces the honey they sell.

Fascinated by the fact that there are

LILY Owens (Dakota Fanning) forms an unusual friendship with August Boatwright (Queen Latifah).

THEME
REDUCE
REUSE
RECYCLE
IN PARTNERSHIP WITH WWF

DEADLINE February 11, 2009
CATEGORIES Poster Design, Motion Graphics, Bag Design, Tetra Pak Bag Design

FOR MORE INFO, VISIT www.adobodesignawards.com
CALL 845.0218 SMS 0928.505.1547
EMAIL info@adobodesignawards.com

adobo magazine · WWF · Canon · bench/ · Esquire · Pamanglayan & Amalia · max

Another heritage . . .

From page E1

...relocation architecturer, to make way for a mall. Second is the proposed demolition of the seventies-old façade of the Church of San José de Binagan to be replaced by what would most likely be a poor replica of the former.

Picturesque

"A brief background of the church of Dingras: It is one of the most picturesque façades in the country, not entirely due to its baroque grandeur, but because of its perfectly beautiful proportions, the genius of the ancient bricklayer, more importantly, its endearing and visceral vintage of a crisis.

"The church of Dingras, like churches in most colonial towns in the country, experienced numerous rebuildings during its course in history. Like similar structures in Bacon, it has conflicting historic information.

"An earlier structure, presumably made of light materials, was built before 1820, damaged during the earthquake of Nov. 11 of the same year. A conflicting report by Cagayan Don Lucas Martinez de Ledon in 1710 mentioned that the church of Dingras was constructed by Fray Alonso Cortes, OSA, 20 years ago, c. 1670-1680, and by the year of Ledon's writing, 1710, only the brick walls remained.

"Noted Church historian Regalado Trota José mentioned a brick church being built in the late 1670s, collapsing in the earthquake of 1707. It is presumed this solid structure was the second church of Dingras. This structure may have remained rebuilding but it was subsequently reoccupied, together with the entire town, by fire in 1828.

"Fr. Pedro Galende, OSA, mentions that in 1879, Fray Damaso Vreyter, OSA, built the present church, which was described as large and massive. But Trota José corrects this by stating the church was built sometime during the pastorship of Fray Tiburcio Sanz 1846 to 1854, the year the builder died.

"The church once again underwent renovation—the roof was fixed and replaced with metal sheets...during the incumbency of Fray Ricardo Diaz, OSB, (1879-1880) and Fray Nidel Powers, OSA, (1884-1896), whom Galende identifies as Estevanino Powers.

LOST head of Santiago Matamoros sculpture at San Agustin Museum

Destroyed by elements

"Fire and earthquake destroyed the church in 1914 and 1931, respectively, which made the structure unsafe and subsequently abandoned. A smaller concrete structure was built on the plaza across the street, which served as the convent of worship. The ruins of the old church remained standing throughout this time, becoming a beautiful and nostalgic setting for picnics and concerts.

"In the past decade the church was reopened, and masses have again been conducted inside the old church, which has been retrofitted with buttress-like structure.

"The architecture of Dingras is significant not only in Philippine architectural history, but more important, in Ilocos architecture, for together with the façades of the churches of San Nicolas, Pidilig, and the original pre-1864 façades of Sarrat and Vintar, Dingras follows the manner and dimension of the Vigandia masterpieces of the Church of El Gran in Bantay.

"Sadly, with the proposed demolition of the façade, gone would be the fine architectural example, leaving the Church of San Nicolas as the only remnant in this once popular style.

Still massively strong

"Why demolish this massive brick façade? It appears the ruin is presumably leaning on the new gyro-like steel built by the parish during the early parts of this century. After withstanding baffling typhoons, earthquakes, wars, pestilence and other shenanigans, the original façade, though showing its age, is still massively strong. Proper methods of conservation during shoring would allow it to continue serving the populace of Dingras, encouraging them to appreciate and understand the meaning of continuity by preserving the past and ensuring its eternal place in the sun.

"Often looming façades have been shored up and made safe for people to appreciate, gaze at and wonder. Mexico's world-renowned ruins of the Jesuit Church of Saint Paul is a prime example of how a façade could be shored up, unreplaced and saved for generations to come.

"What was done in Mexico can be done in Dingras. Economically speaking, it may even be more prudent to just build a retaining inner wall rather than tear down a heavy masonry-reinforced façade and rebuild it in an attempt to follow the same lines and specifications of the original. Artistically and technically speaking, the methods, knowhow and artistry of today really fare poorly to the craftsmanship of the 19th century.

"Finally, do the people of Dingras understand the repercussions of losing a vital piece of their heritage once the original façade is replaced with a replica? A replica can never replace the original. The original and the authentic are where historic value exists, not in replicas that are considered 'fakes'.

"Has anyone asked why this project is even being considered. True, the need to shore up the façade is pressing. Security and safety are paramount concerns of the parish to anyone visiting this shrine of faith.

"But do national and local agencies know of the proposed demolition of this historic façade? If they do, have they suggested alternative processes of rehabilitation instead of demolition of a vital monument?

"The Church of San José de Dingras may not have played significantly in Philippine history, but regardless, one should remember that time is the greatest arbiter of history. And with time, the lasting appeal of ancient architecture, revered as it may be, becomes significantly eternal."

E-mail: prkb.pisco@gmail.com

Wanted: New PPO . . .

From page E1

Czech Republic, Germany's Goethe Institut and France's Alliance Française de Manille.

More nuance!

We missed Sibelius' "Finlandia" due to bad weekend traffic and arrived right smack into Lalo's Concerto No. 1 in E Flat Major with Jovino Santangelo's nuance-ic orchestration.

Lalo, as musicians know, was—for some time—identified with keyboard acrobatics for his penchant for choosing "soloists for virtuosity."

We are familiar with Cruz's piano prodigy years and they were—for the most part—showcases for virtuosity. But now, perspicacious audiences yearn for more maturity, more introspection and perhaps less of the bravado rehash, in the past, he might have used in the exposure of the music.

In this concerto, which flew from our consciousness to the last without pause, Cruz was certainly in command. With Barbieri, there was palpable support, and with that new Ricardo color (courtesy of RDS Music Center) for his chosen instrument, Cruz made the crescendi a virtual walk in the park.

His technique was in full display and, for the most part, there was a hint of an inner flow in his music. Could it be that he was coming to terms with maturity?

At any rate, the PPO unleashed its full energy both in the concerto and in Elgar's "Overture and Coronation" March No. 1 in D Major, Op. 39, with the UP Concerto Chorus, and more so in Dvorak's Symphony No. 8 in E Minor, Op. 95, "From the New World."

Barbieri knew this orchestra's stable and our not this familiarity allowed him to do better than expected. The result was a vibrant 2009 intro for the PPO.

'Fabulists and Chroniclers' now out

THE UP PRESS ANNOUNCES THAT CRISTINA Pantoja Hidalgo's latest book, "Fabulists and Chroniclers," is now available in local bookstores.

The book contains critical comments on such contemporary issues as: How do semiotics and Greek essays function as social history? How do Filipino women writers "perform" the modern gender tale? Is Latin American fiction the source of Philippine narrative realism, or are our own nonetheless forming a more powerful, native lode? Have its close connections with academe enriched or diminished Philippine literature in English?

In what may be her most provocative book, Hidalgo also takes a look at death in, the multi-sya crime novel, and the literacy blog.

But what the ordinary reader—the non-specialized reader who just likes reading books by Filipino authors—may find most useful and interesting is the essay which traces the development of Philippine fiction in English, from its beginnings in the early 20th century to its most recent developments in the work of such young writers as Gi Ivay and Anna Sanchez. This essay should serve as a crash course on the state of the Philippine novel and the short story in English today.

The cover design and artwork is by young artist Ron Henry Aguilar.

Writer-teacher Paz Latorena remembered in UST tribute

THE UNIVERSITY OF SANTO Tomas will pay tribute to the writer-teacher Paz Latorena (1907-1993), a key figure in the first generation of Filipino writers in English, with a one-day academic colloquium on Feb. 11.

Latorena is considered by critics and scholars as one of the "literary matriarchs" of today's Filipino writers in English, along with Nick Joaquin Bulosan, Loreto Paras Sulit, and Angelo Macaraig Gloria.

A Tarlaknon, Latorena's short stories were included in the famous annual honor roll of José García Villa in the early 20th century. Her stories, initially published in local magazines and frequently anthologized since then, present very revealing images of the Filipino woman.

A native of Ilocos, Mindanaoan, Latorena took up Education at UP but transferred on her last year to UST, where she also took up her master's and doctorate. She became a faculty member of UST and became a mentor to F. Sionil José, Bienvenido Aguinaldo, Carolina Garcia, Milagros Fenderes, Ernesto Amandos and many other writers and educators.

She collapsed while teaching in 1993 and died of cerebral hemorrhage. Her stories were collected and published in 2000 by the UST Publishing House as "Stories and Other Stories."

Although her birth centenary was in 2007, UST and Ateneo de Manila University have been ranking since 2008 academic events in her honor to introduce her to new generations of readers and literature lovers.

In UST, the Department of Humanities, Faculty of Arts and Letters, UST Literary Society and UST Graduates will hold on Wednesday an academic forum on Latorena.

At 9 a.m. at the Thomas Aquinas Research Complex, the academic forum will open with her former students, such as José and Tiempo, reminiscing about Latorena.

At 10:30 a.m., there will be paper presentations by leading literature scholars on Latorena: "The Latorena Construct as a Gilded Cage from the Inside," by Florentino Hornedo; "Paz Latorena: The Quintessential Woman Writer," by Ophelia Dimalanta; "Images of Women in the Stories of Paz Latorena," by Eva Kalaw; and "The Self as Myth: Confessional and Personal Mythmaking in Contemporary Lyric Poetry" by J. Neil Garcia.

PAZ LATORENA

At 2 p.m., there will be teaching demonstrations: "The Body as Discourse in Paz Latorena's 'Desire,'" by John Jack Wigley; "Tropical Solitude: The Setting as Intensifier, Intangible Force in the Latorenas's 'The Small Boy,'" by Ferdinand Lopez; and "Funerals and Silences as Auditory Devices in Paz Latorena's 'Woman,'" by Ralph Galan.

At 4:30 p.m., UST Arts and Letters dean Fernando de Jesus and vice dean for academic affairs Claire Carillo will open the exhibit "The Achievements of Paz Latorena," at the Faculty of Arts and Letters building. The exhibit is curated and curated by the Varsitarian, UST's official student paper.

The Varsitarian will also hold a Reader's Theater in which "Desire," probably Latorena's most famous story, will be read by actors Nicole Bonnevardes and Bienvenido Contreras-Bonnevardes.

The events are open to the public. For reservations or information, SMS 09.05.Lopez 09175173168.

Valentine readings

IN "DESSERT JOURNEY: Sweet Quarters from a Pastry Chef," Johnny Iuzzini delivers recipes for irresistible desserts that can be served alone or combined into his signature Sunday group-ings.

"The Cuddle Sizes: An Illustrated Celebration of the Ultimate Intimacy" holds that with a simple embrace, two people can be joined together in an intense bond.

In "If Love Is a Game, These Are the Rules: 10 Rules for Finding Love and Growing Long-Lasting Romantic Relationships," readers are reminded of the simple but often overlooked basics about relationships.

In "The Sweet Melissa Baking Book: Recipes From the Beloved Bakery for Everyone's Favorite Treats," Melissa shares simple, shed-and-true techniques and French-influenced, down-to-earth baking approaches that put a fresh spin on desserts and pastries.

Learn how an ordinary guy can become a true romantic with creative and romantic ideas from "Simply Romantic: Tips to Romance Your Husband," simple and inspired ideas that communicate love via easy but meaningful ways.

Italy meets California in a collection of 100 new recipes from "Elodi's Kitchen." Giada De Laurentiis focuses on fresh ingredients, simple preparations, and bright flavors.

"Tracing Clues for the Hunter: Stuff Stored in Your World" incorporates graffiti wisdom to daring relationships.

The books are available at PowerBooks Specialty Store, with branches at Greenbelt 4 (757-0428 to 29); Megamall (635-2696 to 99); Alabang Town Center (850-3662 to 63); Glorietta 3 (752-7875); Shangri-La (636-0320 to 29); Robinson's Place Ermita (567-1910); Mall of Asia (556-0244); Trinoma (940-1569 / 821; and SM Cebu (032.238.0566 / 69).

Secrets revealed . . . From page 43

educated and highly cultured black people amid the prevalence of prejudice against African-Americans, Sarah Lily and Rosaleen find their long-coveted home, living with Augusta and her sisters, May Dilphia (Okonedo) and Acie (Alicia Keys).

In the Boatwright house, Lily learns new things about herself, gains a deeper perspective on life and on black people, and meets her first love, Zach Taylor (Tristan Wilds), an African-American boy who helps Augusta tend to the farm.

Though she has found a mother figure in her newfound home, she soon realizes she must first come to terms with her own past and find out the truth she has long been searching for.

Fully brought to life

In general, the film hews closely to the book. In the book, the entire story is told from the perspective of Lily. The film devotes a significant amount of time to maintain its focus on her while also showing how the other characters develop and complement her personality.

Framing and the other actors, notably Lofton and Alicia Keys, are notable. Hunter seems underutilized.

The novel explores, among others, racism and feminism, which are vividly depicted by the film's characters, mainly females.

Lily, though not a typical racist who harasses colored people, shows certain signs of discrimination in the beginning when she indirectly suggests all blacks are uneducated and uncultured, just like Rosaleen. In a way, she struggles both with finding her identity and overcoming her perception of blacks.

Augusta best personifies the power of the all-female Boatwright house by showing strength, conviction, wit, and, most of all, by sustaining the success of her family's bee farm, which, as shown in both novel and film, has become popular among African-Americans and whites alike. She mainly serves as a grandmother to the troubled May and a guide to the stubborn Jacie—which Lily sees as something she'd like to be when she grows older.

"The Secret Life of Bees" is a powerful and moving drama on discrimination, identity and female empowerment. And like its bestseller, in which the female or queen bee dominates the commanding women can make a difference regardless of their color and race.

Editor Bienvenido C. Yuhanta

ENTERTAINMENT

Bianca King, 'overachiever'

By Oliver M. Palomar
Contributor

ACTRESS-STUDENT BIANCA King, 22, considers herself an old soul, "a modern hippie." She juggles responsibilities ex-

BIANCA King is a Digital Filmmaking scholar.

Alfred Hitchcock and Richard Linklater, Bianca hopes to write and direct films that will deviate from "movies with the same repackaged content that we've been seeing for the past 15 years."

What was required to get the scholarship?

BIANCA 11

TAKE FIVE

'X' rating puzzles director

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

THE MOVIE AND TELEVISION REVIEW AND Classification Board last week rated "X" the indie film "Walang Hanggang Paalam," directed by Paolo Villaluna and Ellen Ramos.

The movie stars Coke Bolante, Joem Bascon and John Pratts. Villaluna has described it as "coming-of-age love story." The board said it got an "X" because of a lesbian scene.

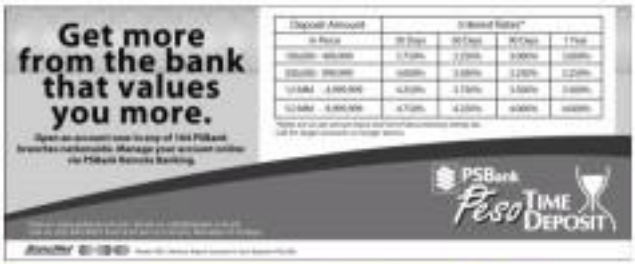
Upon learning the news, Villaluna's immediate concern, expressed in a text message to this reporter, was the expense for a second review from MTRCB screening costs P8,250.

At the recent Film Summit organized by the National Center of the Philippines and the Film Development Council of the Philippines, Villaluna said she was already be honored for the sake of independent filmmakers.

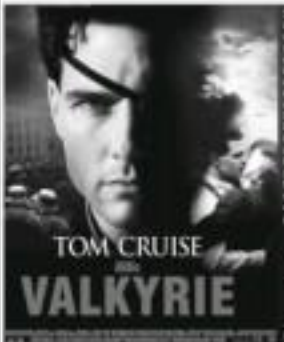
He said the "X" caught him by surprise. "Ellen and I [believe] we have received enough credibility ... we are not fools who make (sic) out of the still films," Villaluna explained. He noted that the board "had passed profane films in the past" and wondered if it could "tell the difference between good and bad movies."

INSIDE

- New vows for Pops, Martin Dollywood /f6



SM CINEMA movietime



Superstar Tom Cruise heads an international cast as Col. Claus von Stauffenberg, the aristocratic German officer who led the heroic attempt to bring down the Nazi regime and end the war by placing a bomb in Hitler's bunker. Based on 20 Plot Against Hitler's life is one of the most daring but least known episodes of World War Two. Cleverly wounded in combat, Colonel Claus von Stauffenberg returns from Africa to join the secret German resistance. Hungry to remove Colonel Valkyrie, the conspirators plan that sidelines a shadow government to replace Hitler's once he is dead. But fate and Stauffenberg's ingenuity in thrust the officer right into the heart of history. It's the plot for a double-edged role. Not only must he lead the coup and seize control of his nation's government... he must kill Hitler himself.

OPENS FEBRUARY 11 AT SM CINEMAS

METRO MANILA
RESERVED SEATS NOW AVAILABLE

IMAX

FLY ME TO THE MOON
1:30 PM • 4:00 PM • 7:30 PM

SEA MONSTER
6:00 PM

DINOSAURS
4:00 PM

THE DAY THE EARTH STOOD STILL
10:30 PM

PODIUM

SEVEN POUNDS

MARLEY AND ME

LATE SCREENINGS

CINEMA 1

SEVEN POUNDS

LUZON

VISAYAS • MINDANAO

ALL MAJOR CREDIT CARDS NOW ACCEPTED IN ALL SM CINEMA BRANCHES

At the Cinemas

Ayala Malls

GLORIETTA 4

GREENBELT 1

GREENBELT 3

ALABANG TOWN CENTER

AYALA CENTER CEBU

MARKET!MARKET!

TRINOMA

GREAT VALUE TREATS

Keep your Glorietta 1 cinema tickets for great value treats!

Bring your previously purchased Glorietta 1 cinema tickets dated November 2008 - January 15, 2009 and you'll get GREAT VALUE TREATS from our participating Merchant Partners.
Just watch at Glorietta 4 cinemas until February 15, 2009.

UNTIL FEBRUARY 15, 2009

glorietta

At the Malls

GLORIETTA
Ayala Center, Makati City
February 13 & 14, Glorietta Activity Center

GREENBELT
The Oasis Fire statement Concept
February 13, Greenbelt Park

ALABANG TOWN CENTER
Love Festival - Schedule, Tickets, Jewelries and Tell Herself
February 13, Town Center Activity Court

AYALA CENTER CEBU
Rose & Concept - February 13, 10am, Outdoor Activity Court, The Terraces

MARKET! MARKET!
A Love Affair - Valentine's Day Fair!
February 13, Activity Area

BONIFACIO HIGH STREET
Cafe Donatello & Patisserie Paste with Margarita Forres
February 13, Activity Area

TRINOMA
Flower Shop
February 14, Level 4, Trinoma Mall

ONSTAGE
I Love You Recipe
February 13-March 8

AYALA MUSEUM
Adventures in Women: Concealed & Revealed
Opening until March 8, 2009
at the Foyer Gallery

Consider a unique advertising tool for your product!

For more information, please call Ana of Marketing Dept. at 404-7142 or 571-0180

ZERONE

glorietta · Greenbelt · Town

Bianca King, 'overachiever'

from page F1

They just required a portfolio. I compiled all the magazine clippings and newspaper stories that had me talking about the school, and how much I wanted to write, and that I felt it was my calling. I also had good recommendation letters from people who really thought that I deserved it.

How competitive was it?

Pretty much, because there are only a [few] slots. The difficult part was the interview. I was asked, "Why do you want a scholarship? You can afford it." That's where I really had to fight for it. I wasn't asking for financial support. I wanted the grants to accompany me and to help me get ahead faster in my career. And also, it could help me get a scholarship abroad.

When did you start supporting yourself financially?

Since I started doing bigger commercials... I was about 16 and I stopped asking for allowance. I don't consider myself a superstar. I don't have a goodbye entourage. I earn. Oh, when I have a show, but that's only for three to four months. The downtime, the lull between shows, I basically live off my savings.

How you see the breadwinner?

It's just innate. I guess. My parents didn't push me. [Maybe] it's a Filipino thing. When the going gets tough, I take charge. [Sometimes I wonder] "Why is life so hard? Why do I have to do these things?" But the notion of giving back makes it OK.

How tough does it get?

I've experienced times when it's overdrawn and I think, "Should I spend the last 50 pesos in my bank on that or should I pay the bills?" I really had to explain to the interest insurer [in the grants committee] that, if they give the scholarship to me, they won't be sorry. It's not only that it would look pretty in my transcript, I mean it.

How is life as a scholar?

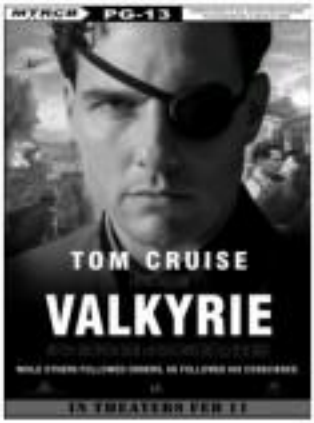
Lonely! Last term, I took the heaviest load, which is 14 units. Normally, I'd take only 6 to 9 units. I have to maintain a GPA of 3.5. Last term, I got a 3.7, my highest GPA, only .3 less than a perfect score. This was in the middle of two movies and "Dyesebel."

What do you want to achieve, ultimately?

Lots of things in terms of acting, in terms of the roles I get. At the same time, it's not my end all and be all.

What advice would you give young fans?

Finish school. It'll take you places. It's always helpful to have a certain skill. If you have an interest in something, work on that. Pursue your passion.



CINEMA ACCESS: 635-5555

MOVIEWORLD

ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD CINEMA MOVIE GUIDE

www.robinsonsmovieworld.com

GALLERIA

1 DOUBT	6 UNDERWORLD 3
2 AUSTRALIA	7 MILK
3 MY BLOODY VALENTINE	8 BUTAS / Inside Box: VIOLATOR COPY
4 MARLEY AND ME	9 STATUS: SINGLE
5 SEVEN POUNDS	10 INKHEART

ERMITA

1 AUSTRALIA

2 BEVERLY HILLS CHIHUAHUA	6 INKHEART
3 MARLEY & ME	7 MY BLOODY VALENTINE
4 UNDERWORLD 3	8 SAW V / STATUS: SINGLE
5 SEVEN POUNDS	9 MILK

METRO EAST

1 MY BLOODY VALENTINE	5 SAW V
2 SEVEN POUNDS	6 UNDERWORLD 3
3 MARLEY & ME	7 INKHEART
4 YES MAN	8 STATUS: SINGLE

NOVALICHES

1 UNDERWORLD 3	4
2 MARLEY & ME	
3 STATUS: SINGLE	

PIONEER

1 SEVEN POUNDS	3 MARLEY & ME
2 INKHEART	4 MY BLOODY VALENTINE

STA. ROSA

1 UNDERWORLD 3	4 MARLEY AND ME
2 TRANSPORTER 3	
3 THE ABANDONED	

LIPA

1 SAW V	3 YES MAN
2 THE HAUNTING of MOLLY HARTLEY	4 STATUS: SINGLE

DASMARIÑAS

1 STATUS: SINGLE	4 UNDERWORLD 3
2 PERFUME	
3 MARLEY AND ME	

IMUS

1 MARLEY AND ME	3 STATUS: SINGLE
2 UNDERWORLD 3	4 SEVEN POUNDS

ANGELES

1 UNDERWORLD 3	3 SAW V
2 BRIDE WARS	4 TRANSPORTER 3

STARMILLS

1 BRIDE WARS	4 STATUS: SINGLE
2 LOVE ME AGAIN	5 UNDERWORLD 3
3 THE ABANDONED	6 TRANSPORTER 3

BACOLOD

1 THE HAUNTING of MOLLY HARTLEY	5 THE CURIOUS CASE of BENJAMIN BUTTON
2 SAW V	6 STATUS: SINGLE
3 BRIDE WARS	
4 INKHEART	

ILOILO

1 YES MAN	4 INKHEART
2 SAW V	5 PRIDE AND GLORY
3 STATUS: SINGLE	6 AUSTRALIA

EASTWOOD CINEMAS

Valentine MUSICALS
THE ANGELOS
687-6963

UNDERWORLD 3:
MARLEY & ME
INKHEART
SEVEN POUNDS
PG 13

Bring the whole family!
OPENS FEB. 11
STEVE MARTIN is back as INSPECTOR CLOUSEAU

THE PINK PANTHER 2

NOW SHOWING
EVIL WILL BREAK YOUR HEART THIS VALENTINE
THE #1 HORROR MOVIE IN AMERICA!
MY BLOODY VALENTINE

BRENDAN FRASER
3RD WEEK
INKHEART

'Slumdog' may win this one, too

LONDON—LONDONDIST BISWAS'ona "Slumdog Millionaire" to cop for 11 nominations at Sunday's top film awards on Sunday building on its Golden Globes success and giving it another boost ahead of the Oscars.

It is tied at the top with "The Curious Case of Benjamin Button," followed by "The Dark Knight," with nine nods and Clint Eastwood's "Changeling," with eight. "Frost/Nixon" has six nominations, while "The Reader," "Iron" and "In Bruges," "Milk" and "Revolutionary Road" four spices.

Early triumph

"Slumdog Millionaire," a British production about a young man from the slums of Mumbai who wins a TV game show, triumphed at the Golden Globes last month with four honors including Best Drama. At the Baftas it's been shortlisted for four films, while director Danny Boyle, who made the acclaimed "Trainspotting" in 1996, is in the running for the best director award.

The movie's international success has been tempered by objections in India to the name, which some slum dwellers find offensive, its depiction of the lives of impoverished Indians and the treatment of the cast.

Boyle has faced accusations from some parts of the Indian media that his film is "poverty porn." He said he was trying to capture Mumbai's "best for life".

Lead star Dev Patel, 18, is also vying for Best Leading Actor when the Baftas are handed out Sunday in Manila time) at a gala event at the Royal Opera House.

Reuters

Watch out for 'Mumbai Calling'

THE WITTY AND HUMOROUS "MUMBAI Calling" airs Wednesdays on TBO starting Feb. 25 at 10:30 p.m.

Shot entirely on location in India, it stars Sanjeev Bhaskar as London-born Sonny Gupta, who has been sent home to Mumbai to run a call center.

When Sonny delivers his directives, the call center is left in the hands of Dev Rajah (Nitin Ganatra), his general manager and seller of clandestine goods.

The London head office sends sexy Tori Atkinson (Daisy Beaumont) to check on the call center and all hell breaks loose.

"MUMBAI Calling"

Galactic combat

Cartoon Network presents George Lucas' "Star Wars: The Clone Wars" animated series every Friday starting Feb. 13, 7 p.m., with replays Saturdays at 11 a.m.

Set between "Star Wars: Episode II" and "Star Wars: Episode III," the new series reveals the untold stories within the epic battle and chronicles the adventures of Jedi Knights Anakin Skywalker and Obi-Wan Kenobi as they struggle against the dark side.

"STAR WARS: The Clone Wars"

CLICK!

Dance talent search

"Randy Jackson Presents: America's Best Dance Crew," a weekly talent search featuring young teams in interactive choreographed routines, airs Mondays at 9 p.m. on ZOE.

Hosted by Mario Lopez, the show is produced by "American Idol" judge Randy Jackson.

John Woo

CNN visits the set of director John Woo's latest film, "Red Cliff," and unveils to Hong Kong premiere on "Talk Asia," Feb. 11 at 10 p.m.

Woo tells Angie Xiao about working with such stars as Tom Cruise and Nicholas Cage.

The episode also airs on Feb. 12, 12 p.m., Feb. 14, 11:30 p.m., Feb. 15, 3:30 a.m., and Feb. 16, 11 a.m.

AUSTRALIA

SHANG CINEPLEX

1 MARLEY AND ME PG-13
1:30, 4:10, 6:45, 9:30
2 SEVEN POUNDS PG-13
1:10, 3:50, 6:25, 9:00
3 CHIHUAHUA GP
2:00, 4:10
YES MAN PG-13
6:40, 9:00
4 UNDERWORLD 3 R-13
2:30, 4:50, 7:05, 9:20
MILK R-13
1:10, 3:40, 6:15, 8:45

"Ani ng Sining"
RECE
Las Pinas Boys Choir
UP Singing Ambassador
UP Chorale
Welli School of Ballet
February 10 and 11, 2009
Grand Atrium, Level 2

Shangri-la Plaza

POWER PLANT CINEMA

SEVEN POUNDS - PG13
DOUBT - PG13
BEVERLY HILLS CHIHUAHUA
*INKHEART - GP
AUSTRALIA - PG13
MILK - R13
MARLEY AND ME -PG13
MOVIES SCHEDULES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

MMTA MOVIE GUIDE
METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION
NOW SHOWING
Walter Mart

MTRCB PG-13
FROM THE DIRECTOR OF "THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA"
OWEN WILSON
JENNIFER ANISTON
Marley & Me
NOW SHOWING

DENNIS has win Heart Evangelista

Dennis on courting Heart: Not a good idea

By Marinel R. Cruz

ACTOR DENNIS TRILLO, WHO ONCE REsisted he had a crush on fellow Kapuso artist Heart Evangelista, said courting the actress was "not a good idea."

Heart recently broke up with businessman Francisco Delgado and Dennis split up with actress Cristine Reyes early last year.

"Like me, she's probably not ready for another relationship. (Like) still single now pero I may finally get the nerve to ask her out," Dennis told Inquirer last week.

Dennis recently renewed his contract with GMA-7. The two-year deal will have him work with Heart in the TV adaptation of the film "Finding Bobasu Ang Pako," which starred Vilma Santos and Claudia Fernando in 1985.

"Heart's always smiling and (pleasant to everybody," said Dennis. "We didn't talk much the few times we worked together. I hope to get to know her more in this new project."

As for his home network, the award-winning actor said he believes in his bosses. "I owe them answers when I come on a few points in my career." He refers to the time he got the flak for dumping his gay Cristine Aguilar pregnant and then for keeping mum during a verbal tiff between Cristine and Cristine. "That's behind all of us now," Dennis said.

Doesn't he feel insecure that GMA-7 is now giving Richard Gutierrez and Bingbong Crisostomo priority? "They're my friends," Dennis said. "I root for (to see whom they get more buddy.) I didn't handle it well. But I'm happy where I am, just doing what I love most — acting."

Beyond the 'birit' menace

WE'RE GLAD THAT MORE PEOPLE ARE shooing our concerns about the current fave fad in singing and its negative consequences. It's loud enough that adults believe (mistake) their vocal cords—and our eardrums—with shrill and overtaxed high notes.

But it's truly wondrous when ever-child singers feel they have to blast to impress listeners and win in singing idol.

Over the years, we've heard some young singers' voices deteriorate due to wrong and excessive use, especially while screeching the high notes they feel they must hit to win accolades, trophies and awards.

Children need to be taught that this is not the way to go if they want to take good care of their vocal equipment, and adults should provide non-birit examples of good singing for younger performers to emulate.

Aside from the physical threat and not that results from singing high and loud most of time, the birit had also limits the artistry of the vocal performances. When singers focus so much on birit or belting, they neglect other important musical considerations like subtlety, contrast, variety, interpretations, nuance, style and versatile vocal expression.

"Historically," the popularity of birit singing started here with the amateur singing contests held all over the country, with contestants copying the high-flying singing styles of the belting likes of Shirley Ramsay and her screaming divas.

Then came Dulce with "Sino ang Nagwagi" and Lea Salonga with "Magsimula Ka" and their super high notes. Meanwhile, hardy Dulce and Lea have now opted for more felt, varied and nuanced vocal performances, an enlightened shift that younger singers should make.

Then came Regine Velasquez, who also launched her own singing career the birit way. After a number of years, however, Regine has similarly matured and experienced an artistic change of heart, resulting in her latest album being praised for musical variety and subtlety.

Double is, Regine's belting became so popular that her fans (teenage successors, female impersonators, fanboys) have—with a vengeance. This has led to a distortion of Imelda's musical gift, and that's a pity. Yes, Sarah has become popular in her own right, but the vocal price she's had to pay is too severe.

Of course, the young singing star would probably disagree with our observations, "but we really wish that she would also see the lights...not just for her sake, but also for the younger singers now listening her.

For instance, Chanice Pempengco may only be 16 years old, but she's already "making birit" like an adult...and her voice is also having a lot of strain. Let's hope that it's not this early to her high-flying "global" career.

Then, there are all those really tiny child singers—some as young as four—already going the birit route to win singing contests and talpak (showbiz) shows. They're screaming all over the place, straining their still developing vocal cords to a damaging degree.

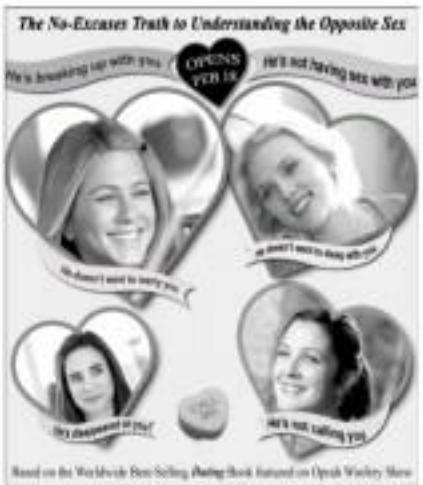
Dulce, Regine, Sarah, Charice—that's the way the birit fad has been handed down through several musical "generations." And it's time to put a stop to it, as those vulnerable 4-year-old believe you're protected and saved. They should learn that there are many other musical possibilities out there other than screeching their little hearts off.

Absolutely interested in this singer doth a disloud music lover, who must also adjust his jet critics and preferences to go beyond birit and appreciate other styles and approaches.

Dulce and Regine have already won the fight, so it's your turn to follow suit.

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre



Choose Your Valentine Show

EVERY YEAR, INQUIRER ENTERtainment helps readers pick the best show for D-Day, by asking the concert artists what they have in store for audiences (and a few other things).

Kuh Ledesma

"The Voice and the Muse" (with guests Isiel Rivera and Jay Cayuca), Feb. 13 and 14, Cuprum's Bar, Manila Oriental Hotel, Makati. Call 7206888.

Vince Cuevas

Tomorrow (9 p.m. Miramar's Jupiter St. Makati), Feb. 20 (7 p.m. Pinoy-ie the Podium, Ortigas Center), Feb. 22 (9 p.m. Wag Not Cafe, High Street, Bonifacio Global City, Taguig)

When you're not doing a concert, how do you mark Valentine's?

Kuh: I can't recall a year when I didn't do a show, but before I became a singer, I remember just going out to dinner or to a movie.

Vince: I personally look forward to spending Valentine's Day with my most favorite date in the world: my family. It's an opportunity bonding and trying new things for dinner or home or in a restaurant.

What's your most romantic Valentine's Day ever?

Kuh: To me a romantic Valentine would be not more and a beautifully written love letter... and that was ages ago, hahaha.

Vince: My being in a long distance relationship has yet to give me my most romantic Valentine date. I would say, though, that my most romantic dates come when my special someone and I spend a whole month together out of a whole year.

What's an ideal Valentine date?

Kuh: (I answer with the one you're crazy about.

Vince: I am madly in love with Tagaytay—it's the perfect place to bring your lovely partner, away from the city, and done snowboarding. Taal Lake at sunset, then drive off to Tagaytay Highlands for a glass of wine as you enjoy a little serenade. I will most definitely throw in my own Valentine playlist on my iPod to set the mood. I'm a big fan of traditional romance.

Who's your fantasy date?

Kuh: Chin Down.

Vince: I have always wondered what dating Audrey Hepburn would be like. She's beautiful. She has the most gorgeous eyes you wouldn't mind staring into for hours. Before the night ends, I'd ask her to sing "Moon River" for me just the way she did in her movie, "Breakfast at Tiffany's."

What's the most romantic love song?

Kuh: Right now it's "Alone," by George Canseco and Louie Ocampo.

Vince: I came across "The Last Time" by Eric Benet four years ago and it has been a fix. I favorite every time it has amazingly beautiful lyrics, and I just have to make it my wedding song with my future bride. I covered the song in my album "Vince Cuevas: Spells of a Young Crooner."

Why should we watch you?

Kuh: I'm the Queen of Valentine! All the songs we chose for this are all suicide-ish in love songs and because Valentine's is intimate, I have Ariel Rivera and Jay Cayuca as guests.

Vince: The music I share is not bound to just a certain era, they're timeless songs that easy to fall in love with for all ages. I believe the Valentine season is the best time for such music so fill the air.

KUH Ledesma

ALL IN THE FAMILY: Martin, Robin, Pops and Ken onstage

Martin, Pops recite their 'now vows' at Big Dome

POPS FERNANDEZ AND MARTIN NIEVera's reunion concert at the Big Dome had all the right ingredients for a perfect prelude to Valentine. There music and banter made hearts work overtime, it made me laugh, cry, smile and sigh in equal parts.

The highlight of the night was when Mart and Pipoy read their "now vows" to each other. Pipoy couldn't hold back her tears when she said, "Mart, help me make our two sons learn the true meaning of love. Thank you for finally seeing my true worth." Mart, teared misty-eyed when he proclaimed, "I worked as a hardened man if you were in my presence only."

It also served as a renewal of the Concert King and Queen's vows on their wedding day—that they will continue singing together, no matter what.

Meanwhile, Pops' boyfriend Ambassador Hilario, who produced the concert, agreed to stop barbecuing on that the ex-couple could have their moment. What a gentleman, indeed!

Mart brought the house down when he impersonated Ann and when he teased Pops, "Don't you wish you're boyfriend was me like me?" Then boys Robin and Ken harmonized it up onstage. They ought to be entitled Concerto Duets! Finally Gary V gamely did a duet with Mart of "Sana Maulit Muli" which echoed the sentiments of Manila Pops fanatics.

Things that I miss about the good old days with Pipoy and Mart came to my mind while watching their concert. "Missing You," I told those moments when Mart would get jokes on the guy/groom and Pipoy would cry to appease him, when Pipoy would rock a gulped dish for Mart and he would savor it just the same, when Mart was afraid to look at Pipoy's face because she told him that she had six left eyes, when they used up all their energy to buy their dresses home to Hawaii. The Concert King and Queen are not the only total of all those moments and memories.

As Pipoy said in the show, "Six years is not and sings. We started out as friends and we saw end up as friends all over again. We both have grown up." But Martin and Pops will never outgrow their need of each other.

Discovering Marian

Reporter: Lovely Dingdong Dantes and Marian Rivera ignite your TV screens once again in Kambo King Carlo J. Caparas' Sang Bahaong Hiyagas ka Aking Tadyang" (tentatively) on SNN "Bidadari". The action-suspense-drama reigned in the ratings in its pilot week.

Dong portrays a nazi whose world becomes topsy-turvy when a mysterious woman (Marian) suddenly appears. Just when he is ready to share his life with her, she vanishes.

Any mystery about Marian that Dong still wants to unravel? "Even if we work together, I must say there are still a lot of things I have to discover about Marian," says Dong. "But I like what I see so far."

Would he go for a free spirit or someone the Prescillas or a simple homebody? "When you love someone, you adjust without your own realizing it. I go for the totality and not just a particular quality," Dong explains. "Love balances everything out. What a woman may lack in one aspect she makes up for it in other ways. It all boils down to how much you are willing to understand her because you love her." Hmm ... Looks like Dong is ready for Cupid's next ring in time for Friday!

Best of both

John Lloyd Cruz has the best of both love teams. He teams up with Bea Alonzo and Sarah Geronimo each. "With Bea it's a team effort," Lloyde says. "But with Sarah, I give full credit to her. She's my sophisticated love team mate." The complementing love team has harsh lead the way.

Boracay Valentine

"A Valentine Weekend at the Shores" on Feb. 14 at Discovery Shores Boracay features French-Moroccan singer Meiss, with special guest Julie Duncan. Call (36) 2884500 or log on to www.discoveryshoresboracay.com. Falling in love is the only option!

Acoustic night

Carole King of Acoustic Pop/New Balance is "Sensitively" with Ryllene Cecile on Feb. 13, 14, 9 p.m. at Galactica of Diamond Hotel (Call 5263000). Ayop will sooon his guitar as well as your heartstrings.

PERSONALS: Belated Happy Birthday to my "D" Robin Coronel Justice and to my love Jet Jay Villareal. Birthday cheers to my soul friend Michael Cruz of "Singing Bee."

E-mail: entertainment@inquirer.com.ph

Over 1,200,000 mass transit commuters
About 500,000 mobile readers
Five days a week
There is one favorite free newspaper

LIBRE

Is there fast-paced times, what makes you stop and take notice?

Since 2001, Inquirer Libre has captured the attention and sustained the interest of the MRT, LRT 1 and LRT 2 riding public.

With the dramatic increase in rail commuters these days, Inquirer Libre's relevant and concise news and exciting reader promos are reaching a much bigger audience — entirely free of charge. No wonder Inquirer Libre has maintained its position as the most read free commuter newspaper in the country.

Now is the best time to be in Inquirer Libre. Because each copy gets passed on to 3 to 7 more readers daily, this smart and handy read is perfect for the mobile urbanite.

Call 897-8808 for inquiries.

LIBRE

Dolly Anne Carvajal

DOLLY WOOD

LEARNING
Like Chocolate Forever

The Magic Circle
Chapter 3 / G4

Deadline for Magic Circle art contest
is Feb. 28 / G4

SUMAGAD: Leadership in praxis

What they've learned
Good leadership has to be taught early

Rolandus Sumagad (AYLC 2003), country director, Asia-America Initiative

ONE OF MY MOST UNFORGETTABLE experiences at AYLC was my encounter with Dr. Jesús Orbe, the first Asian teacher to ruin the Level Excellence in Teaching Award.

His simple advice was: "We should all be proud to have been born Pilipino. We should always keep our passion, be the best that we can be and not let anyone put us down." It made an impression on me.

Whenever I feel like giving up, I reflect on those words. The whole experience gave me a clearer direction, deeper purpose and meaning. I learned that there is no value in my mission, as in our people and help bring about positive change, particularly in promoting peace and development in Mindanao.

The theme of the 2003 congress was "Visionary Leadership" and it empowered me to do more to advance my advocacy. We often think making a difference means doing something grand to create an impact.

But we can do small things to achieve our purpose. We can make a difference in our own simple way and in our own sphere of influence, and help bring about change in our country.

I always adhere to the concept of everyday leadership and I sustain the passion to bring about positive change especially in the lives of others – at work, in the community and family.

I have made the "Brave adverse" my motto. Break barriers between different religions and cultures, especially between Muslims and Christians. In the State of the people of Mindanao, and create opportunities to develop the resources in this democratic and create opportunities to develop the resources in this democratic given the people the kind of life they deserve. Thousands are affected by the conflict in Mindanao.

From the small things I am trying to do for peace, I am hopeful that country and families will benefit.

I continue to live up to the ideals of AYLC. I am making a difference that started with small steps. I never grew up on my mission as a peace advocate in conflict areas even during the toughest times in my life.

Christine B. Valles (AYLC 2000), Rhenohm playwright/teacher

I HAVE ALWAYS BEEN PASSIONATE AS AN artist in realizing my stories. But before the Congress, I never for the sake of writing, making art for art's sake. At AYLC, I realized the artist's social responsibility. He must make art for art's sake but he can also emulate his work by using it as a means to uplift the spirit of other people.

After AYLC, I found my niche in writing. I may not be the politi-cal type of leader. I may not even a corporation, head an NGO or lead activist groups to march on the streets, but my art can also be a channel for leadership.

I continue to write with the audience in mind. I hone my skills and I find time to understand my audience. This does not mean, I am "selling out" or simply giving the audience what it wants. I believe that by immersing myself in the life of my audience, I learn more to understand. It only a little, what it needs.

So I strive to create fiction and give my readers what they need. Storytelling is a means for me to heal himself and find a sense of purpose. This is my core belief.

GOOD: G2

SALLEZ: Leadership art.

QUEZADA: Leadership is service.

Pudsca keynotes opening of 11th Ayala Young Leaders Congress Feb. 11

THE 11TH NATIONAL AYALA YOUNG LEADERS CONGRESS (AYLC) of the Ayala group of companies will be held on Feb. 11-13 in Alfonso, Cavite.

Some 75 students from colleges and universities all over the country will attend the event, which has the theme "Leading and Serving: Distinction in Action."

Aquino speaker is Isabela governor and 2000 Ramon Magsaysay Award winner Grace Padaca. Alfonso Ayala Foundation president Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala will discuss the government's fiscal credibility, a government bailout moderation program, and subsidy to rice and corn farmers.

PADUCA: 1st

In the midst of the economic crisis, how can you secure the future of your children?

Give them a chance to have a brighter tomorrow with a quality college education.

The top 5 universities in the Philippines and part of the top 200 in the world are UP, Ateneo, and La Salle. Competition to get into these schools is fierce! How will your kids measure up?

Let us help your children gain admission to the best universities. Let us be your partner in ensuring the best future for your kids.

Call now to learn how your kids can get ahead of the competition.

Text-based review for UP, ATENEO, LA SALLE and other colleges

AHEAD Review & Tutorial

info@ahead.ph
www.ahead.ph

PART of the robotics exhibit at FAITH

FAITH marks annual MSIT Week

THE FIRST Asia Institute of Technology and Humanities (FAITH)-Unified School celebrated recently its annual MSIT Week with the theme "Making Math, Science and Information Technology Work for You" at the campus in Tanauan City, Batangas. Activities included LTS/NX competition, Sudoku Challenge, Solo Bee and Battle of the Robots. LTS/NX is a word game using the computer key for the Battle of the Robots, contestants were required to perform original songs promoting mathematics, science, and information technology. High-school students held an exhibit of robotics set-up. FAITH is a leading school in robotics. In 2006, it won the Philippines' first gold medal in robotics when its students topped the World Robot Olympiad in Nanning, China.

PWU celebrates 90th year with grand ball

THE PHILIPPINE Women's University marks its 90th founding anniversary with a grand ball and alumni reunion, Hindi Pilit reserve, on Feb. 21, 4 p.m., at Solenad Nuvali, Rosas Boulevard. PWU is the first university of women in Asia founded by Asians. Geraldine Roces, president of the PWU Alumni Association, is encouraging silver jubilarians (Class '84) and golden jubilarians (Class '59 and those who graduated in years ending in 4 and 9 to participate. Board chair Dr. Helena Z. Benitez embraced by the alumni's achievements in their chosen fields the autonomous status granted to the university by the Commission on Higher Education. Under the leadership of its eighth president, Dr. Amelou B. Reyes, the university will pursue its goal to promote transformative leadership for global competitiveness. PWU has campuses in the cities of Manila, Quezon and Davao, with CDCSI branches nationwide. Contact gbcasa@aol.com or the PWU alumni office in Manila (5286071) and Quezon City (9096018). Visit www.pwu.edu.ph or www.pwualumni.ftp.com

Calbayog seminary homecoming Feb. 16

BISHOP Isidro C. Abaquen of the diocese of Calbayog and alumni during the Bells Seminaryo '09 homecoming

THE ST. VINCENT de Paul College Seminary (formerly Seminario de San Vicente de Paul, Seminary St. Vincent de Paul, and St. Vincent de Paul Formation House) in Cagayan Wds. Calbayog City, Samar, will hold its third alumni homecoming on Feb. 16. Class 1989 will host the homecoming. During the event, plans for next year's centennial celebration of the diocese of Calbayog will be discussed. The diocese that covers the islands of Samar and Leyte was created on April 10, 1910, by Pope Pius X. Fr. Jofe Saleh is president of Class '89. Cell 0906-3263411 or 0919-6109612.

Claret schools hold youth peace camp

THE ASSOCIATION of Claret Schools in the Philippines, Inc. (ACSPI) organized recently the 1st ACSPI-Peace Camp at the Zamboanga Jose Rizalino Park, San Roque, Zamboanga City. Theme of the event that was attended by students of member schools was "Planting into the Heart of Peace." Claret has branches in Cagayan De Oro, Zamboanga City, and Tamontaka, Isabela, Malaybalay, and Lanatan, all in the province of Bukidnon. The camp aimed to promote a sense for cultural enrichment, interaction, and sharing among participants to promote a culture of peace. The 81 student participants were accompanied by their respective administrators and teachers.

Fatima research to be presented at KL meet

THE RESEARCH paper "Enhancement of Classroom Learning Experiences of Nursing Students through Constructive Alignment of Course Modules Technology in Nursing Education" of Michael Joseph Dino, RN, MAN, will be presented at the HMMS-ASIA/PAC 2009 Conference & Exhibition, Feb. 24-27, in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Dino is a faculty member of the College of Nursing of the Our Lady of Fatima University (OLFU), his co-researcher research at Olfu Valenzuela City, from December 2008 to January 2009. To learn more about the research, contact Research & Development Center, Our Lady of Fatima University, tel. 2902/934-06 loc. 11, direct line 4323884, or e-mail mailto:mjd@fatima.edu.ph.

PNU holds LET review classes starting Feb. 15

THE PHILIPPINE Normal University is considering review classes starting Feb. 15 for both elementary and secondary education graduates who will take the April 5 Licensure Examination for Teachers (LET). Tentative slots will be conducted Saturdays and Sundays until March 22. Registration is on-going until Feb. 14. For details, contact the secretariat, vice president for academic affairs, telefax 5210068. Meanwhile, fourth year high school students who want to be teachers can take the PNU Admission Test (PNUAT) March 4 and April 5. Call the admissions director, Prof. Ma. Allan Sambrat, tel. 5210976 or visit the PNU website www.pnu.edu.ph.

J.EJHORA talks on the importance of professional certification.

Ateneo CCE invited to training summit

THE ATENEO CENTER for Continuing Education (CCE) joined the recent 17th Annual Technical Training Summit at the Semiconductor and Electronics Industries in the Philippines Inc. (SEIPI). This year's theme was "Strengthening the Global Workforce's Global Competitive Advantage." Art Zamora, CCE program director and a faculty member of the Ateneo Graduate School of Business, talked on Global Branding for the Filipino Workforce: Professionalizing the Industry through World Class Certification. He discussed the importance of professional certification programs, focusing on their benefits and advantages. Other speakers were Dr. Reynaldo Posada and Ms. Margaret Santiago. For more information on Ateneo CCE's certification programs, call 4322000, e-mail ccn-dcd@ateneo.edu or visit www.cce.ateneo.edu.

St. Augustine homecoming

THE ST. AUGUSTINE SCHOOL in Tanza, Cavite, will hold a grand alumni homecoming on Valentine's Day, Feb. 14...At the school quadrangle. The affair marks the 65th founding anniversary of the school. This year's theme is "Pandiyang Agustino: Samo-samo sa Kapit na Dekada." Activities include a Thanksgiving Mass, motorcade, bingo and raffles. For details, visit the SAS principal's office.

St. John's Institute marks Golden Jubilee

THE ST. JOHN'S Institute in Balibago City will celebrate its Golden Jubilee Feb. 9-11. The Chinese-Filipino Catholic school was founded in 1958 by Monsignors John Liu and John Tsu, Jose Maria Sy (Class 1979), chair of the celebration, said a Grand Golden Jubilee Light Parade will launch the three-day event. Floats were designed by Rudolf Cruz while Dwight Santos designed the costumes. Bishop Antonio Tamayo, D.D., will hold a concelebrated thanksgiving Mass on Feb. 11. During the event, 58 outstanding alumni will be recognized in "Honoring Our Best." Visit www.sjgoldenjubilee.com.

Lyceum programs get Level 3 accreditation

THE LYCEUM of the Philippines University (LPU) was granted recently Level 3 Re-accredited Status for three of its programs by the Philippine Accrediting Association of Colleges and Universities Commission on Accreditation (Pascoa). The accredited for five years (2009-2014) were the business administration, liberal arts and hotel and restaurant management (HRM) programs. The HRM program of the College of International Hospitality Management is the first in the country to get the Level 3 accreditation, a formal recognition that an educational institution maintains above average standards.

UM student wins YMCA essay contest

HANSELL ROY BALLA, fourth year Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering student of the University of Mindanao, topped the essay writing contest of the Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA) on "The Role of the Youth in the Protection of the Environment."

BALLA

According to Chairlenge 21, "High school contestants also wrote on the same topic. The competition was one of the activities during the 2nd YMCA National Students' Gathering and Academic Olympics. Theme of the event was "Strengthening the Movement through Active Youth Participation in Response to Challenge 21." YMCA aimed to raise the youth's awareness of local and global issues and to learn what they should do as citizens. YMCA's Challenge 21 is a statement of the organization's mission and the challenges for the youth with special focus on sharing the words and deeds of Jesus Christ. The list of these challenges was the focus of the essay writing contest.

School celebrates business, IT week

SOUTHVILLE INTERNATIONAL School and Colleges (SISC) marked recently the College of Business Administration and College of Information Technology Week. Speakers and resource persons during the event included Dr. Perfecto Sotto Jr. of Perfecto Sotto Jr. Centre from the Technology Resource Center (TRC). Entrepreneur Roberto Carrasco, president of Don Roberto's Bakery Corp., was resource speaker at the Business Lecture Series-DBO forum. Guest panelists were TRC's Dr. Ma. Rosalinda Lapitan-Lazaro and Lauren "Irene Vi-Ilanueva. Events Pasinot Inc. topped the business plan competition among third and fourth year business college students. The team consisted of third year entrepreneurship students Rozanne Sano, Joanne Catalla, Mona Glenn Pacificador, Miss Ronna's Joey Lorenz Cortez and Alexander Paul Espiritu.

Playgrounds for the Mind

We're looking for true stories from World War II

The Philippine Veterans Bank and the Philippine Daily Inquirer are pleased to announce the 2008 WWII True Stories Contest.

The competition aims to uncover stories about the personal experiences of the men and women who served during the Second World War, as well as other individuals who lived through the years surrounding this conflict. Through these submissions, we hope to show that students have researched, researched, researched and understood the subject and formed their own conclusions.

The contest is open to all Filipino students 13 to 15 years of age attending public or private high schools in the Philippines. To compete, a high school student must:

1. Personally interview a WWII veteran or any person who during WWII did or did not experience the day-to-day war life.
2. Write a composition in English that will be a maximum of 2,000 words (for intermediate essay including important details and quotes from the interview.

Each completed entry should be an original, unpublished, logical, coherent and flawlessly developed narrative written by one student. It should be accompanied by the entry form (name, school/address/year attended) fully accomplished and glued on or attached at paper. Entries must be on bond paper.

The first place winner will receive a laptop computer and a private plan a PHP savings account with P10,000. The second place winner will receive a desktop computer plus a PHP savings account of P5,000. The third place will receive a digital camera plus a PHP savings account of P3,000.

Entries may be submitted to any Philippine Veterans Bank branch nationwide by 4 p.m. of March 31, 2009. Winners will be announced on April 7, and awarded April 9, 2009.

2008 WWII True Stories Contest

Official Entry Form

Inquirer | veteransbank

Name:

Address:

Mobile: Telephone:

School:

Address:

Year: Teacher's Name:

To enable interaction, log on to www.inquirer.net/wwiicontest and go

Good...

From page B1

Joseph Anthony M. Quesada, ARTLC (2001), program manager, Ayala Foundation

"TOMS ARTLC WAS BOTH A humbling and empowering experience. It was humbling to witness the overflowing passion and love of young leaders and dedicated leaders for our country. It was empowering to emerge from ARTLC with a shared passion and vision, and a commitment to make our shared dreams happen.

The beginning to ARTLC 2009, a few weeks after Edsa 2, strengthened my resolve and commitment more to develop leadership in others, starting with the leaders in my school.

The experience made me more in the essence of leadership, which is service. It helped me to allow the kind of leadership I needed to develop and embody. I was able to reflect on the values that I internalized in life by and to outline the impact my leadership will have on the lives of others.

I know many young leaders will benefit from an experience like ARTLC. That fulfillment now facilitating leadership programs to share the ARTLC spirit.

Padaca...

From page B1

Other speakers and resource persons from the private sector, nonprofit organizations, academe, government and entertainment industry will talk about how they practice the principles of servant leadership.

The annual event includes plenary sessions, breakout discussions, and physical activities.

Jaime Zobel de Ayala, chair emeritus of Ayala Corporation; Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala, chair and chief executive officer, and Fernando Zobel de Ayala, president and chief operating officer, will interact with participants.

Panelists include Mayor Fareon Pang of Ips. Chief Ki Kahonosan; Manila Water president Antonino T. Aquino, former Civil Service Commission chair Karina Constantino-David, Inquirer columnist Rina Jimenez-David; actress Gilda Bautista, GMA Network reporter Howie Severino, and ARTL alumni Patricia Sallenda, Roberto Sarmiento and Chris Velez.

Also expected are Ayala group executives and officers led by Ayala Foundation president Victoria Garchitorena and ARTL program director John Philip Orbeta.

Ayala CEO Jaime Augusto said, "If we are going to truly develop our country and make it a better place to live in, we have to nurture leadership that is reflective and forward-looking. Our collective future can be safeguarded if we work now to develop principled, ethical, value-based leaders for the next generation."

Professor Sofia Bonoan and Wilcam Erickson Philippines chair emeritus Cindy Abrera will facilitate the sessions. Congress director Simon Ilhamsyah and ARTL manager Joseph Quesada will lead the opening activities.

According to Orbeta, "ARTL delegates have at least one year left before they graduate. This is to ensure they can put into practice what they learn and discuss at the ARTL. Our alumni have done many community projects over the years that have benefited their schools and their communities."

He added that the theme each year reflects the key leadership message that the program seeks to impart to the young delegates.

Visit www.ayalayouthnetwork.org.ph

EUREKA! *Joanna S. Lee-Chua*

DECORATED teachers (from left) Mirencio, Calimagua, del Rosario, Casanova, Caja and Pado

Ace teachers continue to excel

IT IS SAID THAT when teachers are given permanent positions at their schools, or attain the rank they desire, they start to take it easy and stop doing their best.

This may be true of mediocre teachers, but not of dedicated ones. Metrobank Foundation is known for its annual search for teachers. This year, to mark its 10th anniversary, it honored 20 pair awardees—teachers, artists, journalists, soldiers, policemen—with the Award for Continuing Excellence and Service (Asee).

Before my audience of educators, business, government, and civic leaders, 15 teachers (five from elementary, ten from high school, and 15 from college) were recognized again.

Said foundation president Antonio Solimpelo: "Embodying a lifelong commitment to the pursuit of excellence, they continue to make substantial contributions in their chosen discipline and have bequeathed a legacy of achievement to their peers and the community as a whole. They are truly awarded Ang Pilipinong Ako series as living icons of inspiration for being the best models of competence, integrity and professionalism."

Elementary school

Three Asee awardees are from the University of the Philippines (UP) Integrated School, Diliman City.

Elena C. Calimagua, Outstanding Teacher in 1988, is retired in libraries, reading, literature. The former president of the Reading Association of the Philippines (RAP) helps students and teachers hone their communication skills and language strengths.

Calimagua is involved in a Department of Science and Technology software development project to integrate science and mathematics concepts in reading and language. Speed sessions will allow children to access the materials during classes.

Calimagua, now vice president of ICA Publishing, says, "I see to it that we always adhere to the highest standard of excellence in the materials we churn out."

Evelina M. Mirencio, Outstanding Teacher in 1986, teaches creativity, curriculum writing and education. An advocate of learning, she is the first woman to receive the Rizalist Tamayo Interfaith Award. She now administers to Brazil and serves in India. Active in the Commission for Higher Education, she also helps in drug education in member-countries of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean).

"I believe that the Lord led me to this path," Mirencio says. "I use do as less but practice it with excellence. There are no ifs, ands or buts with the Lord."

Felicisa E. Pado, Outstanding Teacher in 1995, is the president of the Network for Outstanding Teachers and Educators composed of recipients of the Metrobank award. She is active in reading and language programs and training, particularly in the early grades.

"In the Bonifie Literacy Program, we taught urban poor parents in Dapar-Bagong how to guide children in their studies with the modules prepared in literacy and numeracy," Pado says. "By teaching the parents how to teach their children, I was [also] teaching the parents, who were not literate, how to read, write and count. I realized that these parents, no matter what their economic status was, would want to learn. I wish there would be more initiatives to make them adult Filipinos who are literate and critical thinkers."

Hazel C. del Rosario was Outstanding Teacher in 2001 when she was teaching at Sta. Rita Central Elementary School in Dasay City. She continues to work as inspires the services of teachers' organizations, as self-assessment in school-based management, as well as build links among teachers, parents and students.

Now with the Basic Education Assistance for Mindanao, Del Rosario continues to help conflict-ridden communities in the south. She heads the Fund for the Basis/Program that benefits more than 200 underprivileged school children daily. She is also the Indigenous People's Coordinator for Region 12.

"The government can make this profession attractive by getting dignity to teachers," Del Rosario says. "How can teachers gain respect when they are often the victims of unjust? I do not mean lucrative salaries, but enough to meet teachers' basic needs. A school-based teachers compensation, with regular monitoring, can empower teachers to run their own leveling business by providing skills training and seed capital."

High school

Arthur P. Casanova of Ilimo International School Manila was Outstanding Teacher in 1999. He writes folk tales, children's stories and poems. He also has anthologies of plays. He directs plays, choreographs folk dances, performs to schools nationally and abroad. He has several National Book Awards. His musical plays have also earned quite a number of Aliw Awards, proof that his contributions in art and literature transcend the mundane.

"I tell my students that modesty should not be part of their vocabulary," says Casanova. "Patience, hard work and perseverance are the keys to excellence."

Evelyn B. Caja of Ramon Magsaysay High School, Quezon City, was Outstanding Teacher in 2001. She works with special children, making them more competent and confident in society. "Through the years, I have mastered my craft and deepened my passion to reach these children," Caja says. "What Jesus said in the book of Romans, 'Whatever you do to the least of my brothers, you do it to me' has inspired me to spend the rest of my life making a difference in their lives.

"I have helped surrogate's mainly impaired individuals like Rosella Ambahong who graduated magna cum laude from Ateneo de Manila; Cinchi in Cascarino Gan, cum laude at UP; and Bienvenido Cacon-Ando, cum laude at the University of Sto Tomas," she says. "The interventional materials I have prepared and introduced in the teachers' days of the visually impaired all over the country is a legacy I will leave behind when I reach compulsory retirement."

Next week: College awardees

E-mail the columnist at lifestyle@yahoo.com

Benefactor opens new doors for blind students

SIR WERE AND, JAMES A. Mackay, chair of Bonfoil Corp., was not keen on celebrating his birthday.

Then he met a blind Filipino child named Mac. Mackay was concerned the boy's handicap would keep him from realizing his full potential.

The American businessman decided to adopt the boy. At the same time, he started to think of ways he could help other children like Mac here as normal a life as possible.

Mackay, whose company is engaged in advanced medical technologies and solutions, like the Bonfoil Diagnostic Systems (BDS), became involved with the Philippine National School for the Blind (PNSB) where Mac studied.

He said, when he went to the school, he saw not only the state of the institution but also the talent being nurtured there, despite the odds. "The children had all the ability and it was an indication of the good work being done by the school," he said.

Initially, Mackay provided computers equipped with accessories for the blind, educational materials, gym equipment, and other things that he thought would make learning more interesting, using his own money.

Before Christmas, Mackay funded the construction of a new building worth P2.3 million, equipped with facilities that would teach students how to use computers, surf the Net and learn foreign languages so they could find employment as transferees and call center agents.

Currently, the PNSB provides training in handicraft, massage therapy and other livelihood skills.

Purificada M. Tuvera-Ilio, who has been PNSB principal for 13 years, said Mackay was a God-send.

She said, the school had a budget of about P1.8 million a year that was supposed to pay for everything, including the students' stay in the dormitory, school maintenance and salaries.

The annual budget hardly allowed for new facilities and new programs.

The PNSB was established in 1907 by American educator Dora Dolph Stice, a Theosophist. It was originally part of the School for the Deaf and Blind.

In 1979, through Republic Act No. 3552 or "An Act to Provide for the Education of the Blind in the Philippines," housing initially for students moved to another school. The PNSB is specially designed to make it easier and safer for the visually impaired children to move around.

PNSB students are taught the Braille system for reading and writing, as well as skills that will make them self-sufficient. An education program is also offered for children with multiple handicaps—such as visually impaired children who are retarded or autistic.

About 30 percent of PNSB's students stay in the dormitory.

PNSB offices in Cubao and Manila. Mackay said he planned to have PNSB graduates who completed training as call center agents or translators.

He said the visually impaired could do the job as well as any sighted translator.

HEARTS THAT SEE: Blind students at Philippine National School for the Blind, wearing festive costumes during a school celebration, pose with benefactor James S. Mackay, chair of Bonfoil Corp. (in white, last row).

(Last Monday: The wedding of the titikchang couple was well-attended by invalidos and other special guests, including Jepoy and his dog, of course.)

INQUIRER IN EDUCATION

bench/

The Magic Circle

Chapter 3

Story by Gilda Cordero Fernando
Illustration by Gilbert Dorotheo

SOON IT WAS TIME for Doña Geronima to speak. "Every human, animal, plant or spirit is has a reason for being on the planet," said Doña Geronima. "This is a good day as any to remember what one's purpose for being on earth is. Today you can all break your vow of silence and speak your mind."

The unseen spirits, like Maria ang Walkling, could easily define their mission. The Lagona maidens tended organic vegetable gardens in her mountain. Maria ang Binukawan, daughter of Sidu, the god of Mount Kanyar, prohibited hunting. Maria ang Cocoo took her golden dog and sold the products of her own cacao plantation all over the Visayas.

Eleven diamond in kelp-covered hot springs. "Now, what you never help my mother with her washing?" Jepoy complained. "Her knuckles are worn and bleeding. All you invisibles ever do is steal the clothes from her washline to wear to your parties." The kitchen elves wrote down Jepoy's mother's name and address to make her their next beneficiary, and the richest elf promised to buy her a washing machine.

"Potential for electricity!" muttered Gallo.

"Okay, okay, it's now the turn of the animal kingdom to speak," said the talkative monkey. "As for me, I'm quite clear about my purpose. All mankind developed from the ape. It was just a matter of unsettling my neighbors. And the monkeys did it. And so we have a prominent place in history." Everyone nodded.

"As for me," the python said, "When a snake flees in a house it brings good luck to the inhabitants. Filipinos believe."

Voluntoso rose on the spot. "We birds are messengers. We transmit messages during difficult times." She tried the, " blessed is the meek" but stopped.

"Fish live to be eaten," volunteered a large Japa-Japa in a basin. "We are scientific, healthy food for all of mankind."

"Not all mankind!" piped in a plump frond lettuce on a wheelbarrow who had just won an agricultural beauty contest. "Only vegetables are acceptable to all. I'm a winner. My head will gladly roll for whoever wants to eat it."

"I know," muttered Gallo under his breath. "I hate martyrs."

"Birds!" hissed the lettuce, plumping its leaves.

Inka Dinalahan, a blushing rose in a pink pot, said, "I will be happy to decorate the hair of any pretty girl." "Let me speak for the rare beauty," said Pankat. "Our purpose is to keep rats away from germinating so that the rice is safe for eating."

"By humans, again," grumbled Gallo. "Why does everything we do have to be for humans?"

"What's the purpose of rudeness?" interrupted Paulan. "I can't imagine any."

"To be the Donor Boy for the Year of the Rat!" declared a handsome metrosexual mouse. Everyone clapped.

When the twelfth animal had testified its existence, an adult rock, monk, lizard and shiny crawled miserably out of the woodwork. Everybody in the room said "Yuck!" A fairy hissed.

"Don't worry," the cockroach said crisply. "I don't touch fairy food! I really prefer garbage. So, when guys, what's my purpose in life?" When I show up everyone goes 'Yuck' and we tumble to any one. Corporations spend endlessly to how best to exterminate my kind. What can, you, has life for an old deathless cockroach like me?"

No one could answer. Every creature looked at Doña Geronima for help. She fat, beautiful body smelled a smile as radiant as the moon. She called for Maria ang Cocoloride, the town simpleton. "You can answer that question," she said. Everyone in the hall paused.

The ragged Maria Cocoloride giggled her way to the center, butterflies fluttering over her pigtails. She put a forefinger into her ear and said, "Ang ipis ay cabinet ng kabuhayan ng tao."

"The cockroach is the consolation of the people," translated the learned monkey. Hearing this, the cockroach was overwhelmed with joy. It had a purpose in life! It spun around and around in glee then lay on its back, pretending to be dead. Everybody applauded.

Then one of the fish attached a veil, sullen, dumpy, and very bedraggled lapis. He was biting on a dead cigar. "How come the world always revolves around human?" he snarled. "What have they ever done for anybody?

Conclusion next Monday

Student Activity Guide

Vocabulary

Look in the dictionary for the meaning of each word that you did not understand in the story. Use each word in a sentence or a question. Then share a few simple words and their meanings.

Degama - when referring to vegetable gardens, it means without the use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides.

Metrosexual - a man who likes good clothes and goes through all the beauty procedures that females do

Simplistic- an ignorant or silly person

Besieged - filled and rushed with gist

Think about it

1. The author uses humor in the story by playing with words—not only English words but also Filipino words, as well as English words spelled as Filipino. The humor comes from the multilingual punning. For instance, the rose is named Bb.Dinalahan. Look for other instances of wordplay and replicate each.

2. Write an essay answering this question: What is my purpose in life? If you prefer, you can visualize your answer in a drawing or in photos.

Values connection

Join a group of classmates and organize a Council of Meanings. In the council, each student will represent an animal, a vegetable, a tree, a mountain, a river or any item of nature. As the being you represent, tell the council what gifts you have to offer the world. How are humans treating you? What would you like to tell people?

Using the Inquirer

1. Clip any story in the newspaper about animals, trees or anything in nature and write a paragraph on how it links to "The Magic Circle" series.

2. Using pages of the newspaper, make party clothes for the wedding guests so they don't have to steal from the newspaper-clad Jepoy's mother. Make a colorful vest for Gallo. Don't forget about Jepoy—he gets invited, too.

Submit your newspaper fashions to the Inquirer and if yours is among the best, you can win a prize.

Send to: PSI c/o Learning, Chino Roces Avenue Extension, Pasong Tamo, Makati City.

English Teaching & Learning Conference 2009

FEATURING THE LATEST AND MOST INNOVATIVE LANGUAGE-LEARNING SOLUTIONS!!!

ALL SCHOOL HEADS and TRAINING MANAGERS are invited! FREE REGISTRATION!!
Reserve your seats now, visit www.genelicschools.net

Venues and Dates:
• MANILA CONFERENCE
Megatrade Hall Function Rooms A & B
2/F SM Megamall Bldg. B, Mandaluyong City
February 16, 2009, Wednesday, 2pm – 4pm

• PAMPANGA CONFERENCE
S & S Technology Center
Gen. Hizon Ave. Ext., Along McArthur Highway
Bo. Sto. Lucas, City of San Fernando, Pampanga
Tel. Nos. (045) 963-3088, feb. 19, 2009 Thursday, 10am – 12nn

Highlights:
• American training expert to talk on the use of the latest English Language Teaching Technology
• Hands-on use of the advanced English Language Software with comprehensive Learning Management System
• Speaking & Writing English Labs for Elementary, High Schools, and Colleges

AVAIL OF THE FREE ENGLISH TECHNOLOGY SOFTWARE INSTALLATION AND EVALUATION USAGE FOR THE SUMMER SY2008-09 OR FIRST SEM SY2009-10

For more details, call 7154384 or 7205549

Learn. Communicate. Succeed!!!

Langhap Sarap Savings with Jollibee Tipid Card

Great news for those on a tight budget as you can enjoy more of your favorite treats from this country's number one fast food chain. Thanks to the new Jollibee Tipid Card, you can have your fill of your favorite Jollibee products at even more affordable prices!

With the Jollibee Tipid Card, you can easily savor your favorite great tasting treats over and over, any time of the day. Whether you're looking for soothing ice chow-in the afternoon or grabbing a quick evening snack, you can get servings-over plate with a regular soft drink or even a cone too!

Choose from 8 suit meals offered at suit prices with savings starting from P8 to as high as P19. For as low as P38, you can nibble on regular fries and have a soft drink. If you're looking for something more filling, there are the P49 combinations. Choose among the Yumburger with vanilla cone twist and a soft drink, Yumburger with cheese and a soft drink, or Jollibee Spaghetti with soft drink. There's also the tasty Jolly Hotdog Classic for only P38 and the bite-piece Chickenjoy for only P49, both with regular soft drinks.

Who says that a craving can only be satisfied by much spending? At Jollibee, it can actually mean great savings.

Watch out for your friendly Jollibee crew from your favorite Jollibee store giving out Tipid Cards for free and take advantage of the pasuit suit ops. Promo is from January 16 to March 31, 2009.

IIE-Lyra Art Contest: Deadline extended to Feb. 28

CALLING ALL KIDS! EXCESS student Eva Icutcha-ne is requesting her students, the deadline for the IIE-Lyra Art Contest has been extended to Feb. 28. All art work, whether relating to Chapter 1 of "The Magic Circle" or the later chapters, will be accepted until Feb. 28.

Four winners will be chosen and each will receive P2,000 worth of art and educational supplies plus a certificate.

Submit your entries to either the Inquirer office, Chino Roces Avenue Extension (formerly Pasong Tamo), corner Yague Street, Makati City, or the Mehl showroom, 437 F. T. Huertas cor. Ricardo Pumaloy Avenue, corner Gatbonton Street, Sampaloc, Manila.

The theme of the contest is fantasy. Entries must be related to any character or scene in "The Magic Circle" series. Medium may be acrylic or gel crayons on 18" x 12" cartolina sheet.

A student may submit only one artwork and may win only one prize.

On a blank sheet of paper, indicate the student's or kid's name, school, address, year level, date/age and mobile phone. Along with a photocopy of the student's school ID, glue the sheet on the back of the illustration board.

Entries will be judged according to artistic composition, the use of light, color, technique and form, appropriateness and consistency of details, originality and appeal, and relevance to the chapter.

Prizes may be claimed at the Mehl showrooms. The same place where entries are submitted.